

other contributions. In the autumn of 1834 he went to Mobile, at the invitation of Peter A. Remsen, a cotton-factor there, who had married his cousin; and in May, 1834, he left there, and went to Granville College, Ohio, arriving June 4, where he remained for over two years. His parents having removed from Lockport to Toledo, O., he visited them at the latter place, in the summer of 1835, and took part with the Buckeyes in a little skirmish with the Wolverines, pleasantly called the Battle of Mud Creek, in the environs of Toledo, — one of the episodes of the Ohio and Michigan boundary difficulty at that period.

In the autumn of 1836 he left Granville, for Hudson River Seminary, near Stockport, N.Y., where he remained a year; and then went to reside in the family of his patron and friend, Mr. Remsen, near Alexander, Genesee County, in the State, pursuing his studies, and an extensive course of reading, privately.

When in Mobile, he made a beginning of collecting unpublished facts and traditions relative to border history, in this instance pertaining to the daring Creek chief, Weatherford, — a habit which, for over forty years, he has since practised with so marked success. While at Granville, he had become interested in the border works of Withers, McCluny, and Flint, and afterwards of Hall; and, finding them oftentimes at variance with each other, he conceived the idea, in 1838, of a work on the Western Pioneers, hoping to be able to rectify many of these defects and errors. This led to an extensive correspondence, and repeated journeys in the Western and Southern States, between 1840 and 1871, aggregating over sixty thousand miles, by public conveyances, on horseback, and on foot, attendant with many hardships, and several times greatly endangering life itself. Many aged pioneers and Indian fighters were interviewed, — the companions of Dunmore, Lewis, Clark, Boone, Kenton, Shelby, Sevier, the Campbells, Sumter, Robertson, Crawford, Brady, and the Wetzels; and thus an unequalled collection of original historic materials was gathered, embracing well-nigh two hundred and fifty manuscript volumes, covering the whole sweep of the Anglo-American settlement and border warfare of the West, from the first fight in the Virginia Valley, in

1742, to the death of Tecumseh, at the Thames, in 1813.

In 1840 Mr. Draper went to Pontotoc, in Northern Mississippi, where he edited a weekly paper for a while; tried rough farming-life one season, fifteen miles from a post-office, and was chosen a justice of the peace. In 1842 went to Buffalo, serving as a clerk in the canal superintendent's office for a year; returned to Pontotoc a short time, journeying among the pioneers; and finally, in 1844, becoming again a member of Mr. Remsen's family, then residing near Baltimore, and subsequently in and near Philadelphia, maintaining an extensive correspondence, and making frequent journeys in the Western and South-western States, and gathering a unique library illustrative of border history.

Mr. Remsen, his patron and friend of many years, dying in the spring of 1852, Mr. Draper, with Mr. Remsen's family, whose widow he subsequently married, removed to Madison, Wis., in the autumn of that year, where he has since resided. Beside perfecting his Border Historical Collections, he has devoted much of his time towards building up the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, editing its six volumes of Transactions, and aiding in gathering its valuable library of sixty-five thousand volumes. In the fall of 1857 he was chosen State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and labored with much zeal and success in securing the adoption of a State system of township libraries, by which nearly eighty-nine thousand dollars were raised for the first year's expenditure, but which was repealed in consequence of the great war tornado of 1861, and the money appropriated for military purposes. Some such measure is very certain to be re-enacted at no very distant day.

Beside the six volumes of Collections of the Historical Society, several pamphlets, and two elaborate school-reports, he prepared in 1869, aided by W. A. Croffut, a thorough work of over eight hundred pages, called "The Helping Hand; an American Home Book for Town and Country, devoted to Farming-Matters, Stock, Fruit-Culture, and Domestic Economy." He has recently completed a work of much careful investigation on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence; and is now engaged, in conjunction with C. W. Butterfield, the able author of "Crawford's Expedition," on a volume