

T H E
PIONEER STEAMBOATS
ON LAKE ERIE.

INTRODUCTORY.

This paper was written many years ago, and originated from an impression felt at the time that the account of the events I should record might be of at least some little interest to the future historian.

I have thought that it would not, however, be unacceptable or out of place, in now presenting it, but before taking up the special subject in hand, to give a brief description of the general appearance and condition of our town as it was at the time when the first steamboat was built to run on Lake Erie.

What I thus offer is of my own knowledge and recollection, written without resorting to historical sources for information. Yet, although more than sixty years have passed since the two steamboats of which I have written were built, and the doings which I record occurred, those early scenes are still vivid in memory; and so my story is an account at first hand of matters of fact, as they appeared to me at the time of their occurrence, given in a plain and simple form. As one between the first settlers of this town and its present occupants, between a time which has long been past, and the present, indeed between the dead and the living (for my early associates have nearly all passed away), I present these recollections.

In your mind's eye, then, go back with me to the year 1818, and imagine the situation and the appearance of Buffalo and