



PREFACE.

that loyalty which characterized the reign of Louis XIV., the volatile, reckless, and amiable class who now inhabit the cottages of a great portion of the Canadas, and who we have recently seen striving to shake off the British power; the class who had been accustomed to reverence the French monarchy in their own country, and were willing to obey their seigneurs in the American wilderness. Another difference between the two colonies consisted in their religion. While the Quaker and the Puritan adhered, with the utmost rigid firmness, to the forms of their own church, the region of the lakes was the stronghold of that gorgeous fabric, the Church of Rome; and for more than a century it was the ranging ground of the most polished order of that church, the order of the Jesuits.

The history of Michigan exhibits three distinct and strongly marked epochs. The first may be properly denominated the Romantic, which extends to the year 1760, when its dominion was transferred from France to Great Britain. This was the period when the first beams of civilization had scarcely penetrated its forests, and the paddles of the French Fur Trade swept the lakes, and the boat-songs of the traders awakened tribes as wild as the wolves which howl around their wigwams.

The second epoch is the Military. Commencing with the Pontiac war; and, running down through the successive struggles of the British, the Indians, and the Americans, to obtain the dominion of the country, it ends with the victory of Commodore Perry, the defeat of Proctor, and the death of Tecumseh, the leader of the Anglo-savage Confederacy upon the banks of the Thames.

The third epoch is the enterprising, the hardy, the practical, the mechanical, the working age of Michigan; and it commences with the introduction of the public lands into market. It is the age of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures; of harbors, cities, canals, and rail-roads; when the landscapes of the forest are meted out by the chain and compass of the surveyor; when its lakes and streams are sounded and adjudged by their capacity to turn the wheel of a mill or