

REPORT OF AN EXPLORATION OF THE TERRITORY OF MINNESOTA.

BY BREVET CAPTAIN JNO. POPE, CORPS TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS.

St. Louis, Mo., February 5, 1850.

COLONEL: In obedience to your instructions, I have the honor to forward to you, herewith, a map and report of the expedition of the past summer to the valley of the Red river of the North.

Although not so full and complete as might have been desirable, I hope they present, as concisely as possible, all necessary information as to the movements of the expedition, and the character and resources of the country which was traversed.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,
JNO. POPE,

Brevet Captain Topographical Engineers.

Colonel J. J. ABERT,

Corps Topographical Engineers, Washington, D. C.

CHAPTER I.

Introductory.—General description of the Territory of Minnesota.—Country between the Mississippi and St. Croix.

In determining upon the plans for reports of explorations of new territories, the great difficulty presents itself of embodying in them that kind of information which the geographical position of the country, and the peculiar nature of the interest attached to it, would render most useful and important to the country.

The vast extent of the unexplored regions between the frontiers of our western States and the Pacific ocean, the numerous and warlike tribes of Indians which roam through them, and the ancient and mysterious relics of a people whose origin is unknown to us, have furnished materials for personal adventure and historical incident which have given to the narratives and journals of Long, Frémont, Emory, and Abert a great and well-merited popularity.

The Territory of Minnesota, though perhaps equally unknown, yet from its vicinity to the Mississippi and Lake Superior, more easy of access than the interior of many of the States of the Union, has begun to attract so much attention throughout the United States, and particularly among those desirous of emigrating to the West, that I am satisfied an account of its character and resources would be far more interesting and useful than the detailed journal of the officer who explored it, and who, in the present instance, has not met with an adventure of sufficient interest to repay the perusal.

I have determined, therefore, to deviate altogether from the methods pursued by the above-named officers, and to make a report which shall be entirely practical in its nature.