

WHAT GLAZIER MIGHT HAVE DONE.

There is sufficient reason, however, to believe that Captain Glazier went to Lake Itasca and Elk Lake very much in the way and by the route he describes in his papers in the "Meteorological Journal," and certainly the projecting and carrying out of such a trip is, upon its face, highly creditable to any man. But it is not creditable to a professed explorer that he should be so utterly ignorant as was Captain Glazier, of the very simplest facts regarding the geography of the country he attempts to explore.

Captain Glazier should have fully informed himself regarding the work of Nicollet. Instead, he seems to have only the very vaguest notion of such a character.

He should have sought the help of the records in the Land Department at Washington. He evidently was not aware that there was such a department of the government.

He should have consulted the Topographical or Engineers' Bureau of the United States Army, where Nicollet's papers and note-books are deposited. Perhaps he did not know there was any such thing as a United States Army left after he resigned his commission.

At St. Paul he should have availed himself of the resources of the State Geological and Natural History Survey; then, and for a year or two before, in active study of the very region for which he was bound.

There, also, he should have consulted the officers, the library, and the valuable collection of papers of the Minnesota State Historical Society.

At St. Paul and Minneapolis he would have found a number of intelligent and courteous gentlemen in the Land Department of the Northern Pacific Railroad, who could have given him many hints as to what was known and what was to be discovered about the sources of the Mississippi.

The Register of the United States Land Office at St. Paul would have shown him the official plats of all the surveyed townships in the Itasca region, if he had but asked the privilege of consulting them.

Finally, he might have found the men who spent four weeks in September and October, 1875, making the government survey of the two townships which contain all the feeders of Elk Lake