

sources his literary efforts have illustrated and adorned. I am also indebted to the State Librarian of Michigan and the Secretary of State, for facilitating my labors in their own respective departments.

Independently of the interest which has been for some time thickening around the Lake region of the country, from the progress of emigration into that quarter and its extraordinary advance, there are also other facts which augment this interest. In the first place it has been excluded from the possession of the United States until the year 1796, and, by consequence, its history is foreign previous to that date. Held by the French crown until 1760, it was made a rallying point for its military and mercantile operations until this period, connected as they were with savages and the influence of French institutions and the Catholic Church. It is, moreover, a new and comparatively unknown field. While in the more densely settled States of the east the prominent events of their growth have been carefully treasured up and recorded, those of the north-west have been in a great measure neglected. This is doubtless owing to the fact, that the region which now comprises the American States in this quarter had no distinct and independent government until the year 1787. It was a howling wilderness, the border of a vast jurisdiction belonging to monarchies abroad; inhabited by migratory traders, wandering hordes of savages, or temporary armies encamped for the purposes of defence or conquest. But the time has now arrived when the facts should be embodied, and the causes and consequences which have borne upon that country clearly set forth.

There is a striking difference in the colonial character of the Atlantic States and those of the north-west. The colonial structure of the States of New England and New-York was of the English and Dutch cast; while that of Michigan, previous to its conquest by England, was French. The non-independence, the upright, sober, and self-denying character of the founders of New England, chastening their appetites and passions to a severe form of religious doctrine, was unlike that of the class of Frenchmen, who were inspired with