



THE
CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN,
AND NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

VOL. VI.

MONTREAL, APRIL, 1878.

No. 4.

THE FIRST PAGES OF WISCONSIN HISTORY.

BECKONED by her years in the Union, Wisconsin is younger than twenty-nine of our States, but reckoned from the year it was first traversed by white men it is older than almost all of them.

Most eastern readers of Bancroft's first edition of "United States History," saw with surprise that Wisconsin was crossed by Joliet and Marquette on their way to descend the Mississippi as early as 1673—more than two centuries ago. But some years ago, (in 1853,) the well known historian, J. G. Shea, discovered in the *Jesuit Relations*, for the year 1640, this passage, written by the Jesuit Father Le Jeune, from Quebec to France: "M. Nicolet, who has penetrated farthest into these most distant regions, has assured me that if he had pushed on three days longer on a great river which issues from the second lake of the Hurons, (Lake Michigan,) he would have found the sea. Now I strongly suspect this sea is on the north of Mexico, that thereby we could have an entrance into Japan and China."