

P R E F A C E .

THE tract of territory now embraced in the State of Michigan, derives its name probably from the Indian word *Michisawgyegan*, signifying a Great Lake. Its growing importance has induced me to undertake this work. Endeavoring to exhibit its history and its resources in a condensed form, I have aimed at accuracy in all its parts ; and to state nothing but that for which ample evidence may be produced. The materials have been scattered around ; some in rough fragments half buried in the soil, some in sculptured masses, and others had not been hewn from the quarry. If it be thought that they are arranged into a well-proportioned fabric, I reap a full reward. Besides a large body of documentary matter and other sources from which facts have been derived, are the works of Hakluyt, Hennepin, La Hontan, Charlevoix, Henry, Carver, Roger, Mackenzie, Schoolcraft, and the valuable discourses which have been delivered by Lewis Cass, Henry R. Schoolcraft, Henry Whiting, and John Biddle before the Historical Society of Michigan. I would also acknowledge my deepest obligation to several gentlemen of the Detroit bar, among whom are B. F. H. Witherell, A. D. Frazer, and Franklin Sawyer, for aiding my researches in the prosecution of the work ; and especially to Mr. Henry R. Schoolcraft, for his kind aid and advice when these were most required ; an assistance, springing not only from personal friendship, but from an interest in the north-west, whose history and re-