

race—long since passed away. It has no ruined temples and columns—no broken statues—no exhumed cities left as monuments of a civilization, which no longer exists. Its greatness is in the future, yet clear to those who look through the vista of coming years with an intelligent and steady gaze.

But even here we have a *past*, and one of no small interest—a past that reaches back beyond the clearly-defined regions of fact, into the dim and shadowy regions of romance. We have the history of the gay and happy Frenchman leaving his storied, native land—its vine-clad hills and sunny valleys, and with a passive heroism, that defies every danger, and endures every trial, here cheerfully—nay, joyously—struggling with nature in her obscurest, wildest depths, and meeting upon his own ground, and around his own camp-fires, the still wilder savage; *here* planting the footsteps of an advancing civilization, and in the midst of every peril and every privation, creating an Arcadia of simple happiness amid the green prairies and the somber forests that lined the banks of our noble lakes and beautiful rivers. The author, who with a genial spirit and an artist's eye, looking through the dim transparency of the past, shall reproduce to us a true and lively picture of the first century of the French occupation of the North-West, will deserve and receive the warmest gratitude.

*Then* comes in our history the stirring events connected with the conquest of Canada by Great Britain—the surrender of the North-West to the conquering power—the conspiracy of PONTIAC—the siege of Detroit—the capture or abandonment of other posts so graphically described by PARKMAN; and finally the American Revolution, some of the incidents of which I have sought to trace.

Nor is our later history without its absorbing interest. During the war of 1812, the North-West was the scene of stirring and tragic events; and when armed rebellion raised its bloody hands against the UNION, the North-West poured forth its hardy sons in one generous, mighty and continuous stream, and where there was danger to be met, suffering to be endured, or glory to be won, they were among the foremost. Stalwart blows they dealt, and their blood has enriched, and their bones whitened, every battle field.