

because the country contained no records of annual events. I should, moreover, have given each incident its full proportion and coloring, and thus have thrown upon the canvas a symmetrical painting; whereas I have now only drawn a group of crayon sketches, imperfect and unsatisfactory, I fear, to the great mass of readers. It is a consolation, however, to know that these can be modified at a future time if the general plan of the work meets the public approbation.

Perhaps the spirit in which the subject is treated may be considered by the less excitable class of readers as too ardent. To that class I would remark, that the nature of the subject seems naturally to awaken much of zeal. The example of new States advancing in our western forests, not in steps but in bounds, presents an extraordinary scene, calculated to call forth whatever of enthusiasm the mere growth of a country can kindle. The people of the new States of the west, carrying from the east their habits, their laws, their institutions, and their principles, and erecting frames of government upon common models, are composed, for the most part, of mutual acquaintances and friends. It is therefore natural for each to regard the causes which have acted on the soil of the other, and the institutions which both may build up, with intense interest; for their labors are the achievement of one common people, shedding glory on one common country. They are the offspring of free mind, secure in the reward of its exertion, which has rent the manacles of past ages, and which is now accomplishing its own bloodless victories on a field as wide and bounteous as the heart of man could wish. To trace the causes which have acted upon the State, and to exhibit its present condition, is, finally, the design of this work; and whatever may be its errors in point of statement or taste, if it shall be thought that it adds any thing to the stock of State history, and throws any light upon the resources of the north-west, I shall be satisfied.

*Detroit, Jan. 1st, 1839.*