

PREFACE.

important facts and interesting reminiscences may be placed in a more convenient form, and safer depository than a newspaper. I have complied with their desire. In doing so, I must in justice to myself, beg leave to say, it has no pretensions to literary merit. I only claim the merit of having closely observed, like a business man, the changes that are rapidly going on in the hitherto little known regions of the West: for the truthfulness of its statements, thousands are ready to avouch.

I desire the reader to give the table appended, a careful examination, and he will see that this commerce of the Lakes is not local or confined to any one State, but that it is the principal channel of a great many States, who use it most extensively for the transacting of their business.

J. L. BARTON.

Buffalo, February, 1847.