

PREFACE.

The plan of the present work is similar to that of the *Early Chapters of Cayuga History*, issued in 1879, as the first of a series intended to include a complete account of the missionary labors of the French Jesuit Fathers, in the several Iroquois cantons, in the last half of the seventeenth century. It has the same distinctive feature, in the use made of the Relations for the purposes of local history, which belongs to the previous publication. These records of two centuries ago, are allowed to tell their own story of devotion and heroism, while they also serve a most trustworthy guide to the researches of the antiquarian, topographer, and local historian, as will be seen in the notes to the translations in the text, and the accompanying map.

The writer would acknowledge his indebtedness, as in the preparation of the Cayuga Chapters, to Dr. John Gilmary Shea, author of *Catholic Missions Among the Indian Tribes of the U. S.* (and kindred volumes illustrating the early history of the country,) for his counsel and aid, which has been of service in various particulars. The introductory chapter, which narrates the first missionary visit to the Indians within the present limits of the state of New York, and chapter VIII which concludes the history of the Seneca Mission, were furnished by him, while the translations that