

INTRODUCTION.

At the desire of the venerable writer of the following reminiscences, I have undertaken to superintend their publication. In the main, the order and form of the memoranda here collected, are preserved, as in the author's manuscript. They are not presented as a product of literary art, nor are they given forth as deserving to be ranked with "works" of biography and history. They furnish merely a simple and unpretending contribution of material for these.

And it may be that what they afford by way of knowledge concerning the specific subjects treated,—the navigator and the steamboats,—does not constitute all their value. Much, making them more widely useful is, probably, to be found in the glimpses they give us of the days gone by; the forming times of that great commercial highway, in the midst of which Buffalo, as a chief depot of transfer, has so long stood preëminent.

These memorial jottings should, therefore, be read remembering that things in themselves trivial, taken alone, may, if viewed in their relations, and considered not in a critical but in a meditative and receptive manner, become interesting and instructive.

A. B.