

taken to supply, in almost every case, references to the sources from which the note has been drawn.

The occasion is opportune, in this connection, to pay a much-deserved tribute to the memory of an earlier worker in the Detroit historical garden, whose fame remains unsung. Father Christian Denissen, a parish priest of Detroit, labored assiduously for many years to compile a genealogical record of the Catholic families of early Detroit. It was his ambition to publish the result of his labors, but when, in 1911, death stayed his hand, the cost of publishing the vast compilation of data he had brought together far exceeded the comparatively modest estate he had been able to leave for the purpose. The Denissen genealogies, therefore, still exist only in manuscript, and there seems no present prospect that the dream of their compiler with respect to their publication will ever be realized. Yet they constitute a well-nigh indispensable source of information for all who would delve in the early history of Detroit. In view of the remote prospect of their publication *in extenso*, it has seemed wise to incorporate in the footnotes to the present volume as much of the genealogical data accumulated by Father Denissen as the circumstances of the case permit. We have also brought into the footnotes such additional information procured from other sources as we have been able to find. Aside from the general historical value which may attach to these biographical sketches, they should possess a peculiar interest to the many thousand present-day citizens of Detroit who are the direct descendants of those who resided here in the French and British periods. This consideration, among others, has been responsible for the large amount of effort (and of space in the volume) devoted to annotating the documents.

It seems advisable to inform the reader concerning a problem of peculiar difficulty which has been encountered in the preparation of these footnotes. The correct spelling of the proper names of the residents of French Detroit frequently presents a puzzle whose solution drives the Editor to despair. Perhaps the simplest aspect of this puzzle has to do with the given names: Should Marie Anne, for example, be written