

eral of its successors, necessarily contained some contributions which later years and subsequent investigation proved of small value. Each volume, as it successively appeared—and the same is true of the Society's publications of the present day—stood as it were on the shoulders of its predecessors. Each contained, if not refutations of what went before, at least many and often important corrections. Such being the case, the project of carefully re-editing the several papers in the first ten volumes (those issued under Draper's editorship) appeared in some respects hopeless; indeed, if only the really enduring material were to be retained, they might readily have been condensed into four or five volumes.

More mature consideration of the problem, resulted in the decision to publish a strictly page-for-page reissue, without re-editing. This, because it appeared desirable, bibliographically and historically, to exhibit the manner of growth in the *Collections*; to preserve intact the original pagination, in order that the value of thousands of references to the first editions, scattered throughout historical works touching upon Wisconsin and the West, might not be vitiated by a new system of paging; and to present in its original form what is the most enduring monument to Dr. Draper's skillful editorial labors in behalf of Western history.

Actuated by these professional and personal considerations, we have, therefore, made an exact reproduction of volume i, as edited by Dr. Draper, save that the mechanical appearance is in accordance with that of the *Collections* (subsequent to volume x) issued under the direction of the present Editor. Obvious typographical errors in the original have of course been corrected in the present issue; otherwise, the matter upon each page is exactly the same as upon the corresponding page in the original—a convenience which will be appreciated by all scholars who have occasion to cite the series. In addition to the material of the original, we give: (1) A Memoir of Dr. Draper; and (2) the Early Records of the Society, from the original foundation in 1849 until 1854, under the reorganization, when the Report in each of the first ten volumes of *Collections* takes up the story of the So-