

subject, and are undoubtedly as full and correct a history of that period, as ample knowledge, industry and research could make them.

In recurring to the early history of the country, we are naturally led to inquire—By whom was it first explored, and what motives prompted its exploration and occupation? And here, I would observe, that posterity has scarcely yet done justice to the character and merits of those who first entered upon this hazardous enterprise. Columbus, after repeated rebuffs and disappointments, at length, by indomitable courage and perseverance, succeeded in discovering a new world. That success excited the envy and hostility of the great and powerful. During his lifetime he suffered injustice at the hands of his sovereign, and failed to receive the reward he so nobly won, and so richly deserved. It was reserved for posterity to do full justice to his merits. His monument is not less than this vast Continent, peopled by millions of freemen, who acknowledge him as the discoverer of America. The principal motive which influenced him in undertaking his great voyage of discovery, was probably that of ambition, and the desire to give his name to the new and hitherto undiscovered country.

But how different the motives of those who first entered the path for the exploration of the distant wilds of Wisconsin! They were the poor but devoted missionaries, who could gain nothing by their discoveries; men, who not only professed to have at heart the welfare and happiness of the Indians, but by every action of their lives, proved the disinterestedness and purity of their intentions. Whatever opinion some may entertain of the efforts of modern philanthropists to ameliorate the condition, and improve the morals, of the natives, none should withhold from the early missionaries and reverend fathers, the meed of praise for their zeal and devotion in their attempts to civilize the Red Man, and better his moral and social condition. The kindness and friendship with which these efforts were received by the Indians, and the sincere and enduring ties of good will which so long subsis-