

volume; his death prevented us from carrying out that intention.

The late publication of a work in New York, entitled the "History of the Catholic Missions among the Indian Tribes of the United States," printed by Dunigan & Brother, may have accomplished the object intended. I have not seen the work, and cannot therefore say *how far* this portion of Western Colonial History has filled the pages wanting.

The history of the Catholic Church *West*, is rich in historical recollections and incidents connected with the first settlement of that great empire, extending from the Hudson to the Columbia—from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains. May it not also be, that in the same extensive region the *hopes* of that Church are sanguine as to the future? Whatever may be the *fruition of them*, I trust, even in *these times*, as an *American*, claiming my descent from the pilgrim fathers of New England—as a *Protestant*, brought up by the very Gamaliels of that creed, I may be pardoned in saying, that in the full realization of those hopes I apprehend no danger to *American government, American institutions*, and least of all, to *American republicanism*.

There is no one subject which presents to the mind of the antiquarian and the scholar a finer field for investigation, than the early settlement of that region once known as the North-Western Territory—comprehending within its limits an empire, embracing the five great States of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. When a portion of this Territory was first discovered, is unknown. The Jesuit Father, no doubt, was the first white man who "paddled his light canoe" over those inland seas, extending from the St. Lawrence to the further limits of Lake Superior; and long before civilization or empire had extended their star westward, he had unfurled the banner of the cross on the shores of Lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior; and the missions of St. Francis Xavier, at Green Bay, of St. Ignace, at Mackinaw, of