

Latitude and Longitude

OF

Milwaukee, Prairie du Chien, Racine, and Madison

By Lieut. Colonel J. D. Graham¹

Although the places above mentioned are included among a number whose geographical positions, as determined from astronomical observations the present year, have been communicated for publication, in a brief form, in the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, yet their importance as contributions to the geography of the State of Wisconsin, may render them acceptable in the publications of the Historical Society of that State. For this purpose, the observations, and the data upon which each determination rests, are here given more in extenso.

The following is a description of the instruments used in making the observations, being all of a portable character, requiring no time to set them up for observation, and all the requisite adjustments being readily made within a few minutes before commencing each night's observations, viz:

1. A sextant of $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches radius, made in the year 1838, by Simms (of the late firm of Troughton & Simms) of London. It is divided on *palladium*, a metal well suited for fine and distinct graduation-marks, and whose peculiar color and

¹Of the U. S. Corps of Topographical Engineers, Corresponding Member of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.