

Introductory

The ninth volume of *Collections* of our Historical Society will be found to add something towards the elucidation of the history and growth of Wisconsin. The matter, as usual in our series, is varied in its character. The paper by Rev. Mr. Peet, on the "Emblematic Mounds of the State," is the result of earnest study, and cannot but prove interesting to all students and investigators of that ancient period. Prof. Butler's scraps on early Northwestern history serve to preserve some fragments and landmarks of the early time; while his paper, discussing the character and authenticity of the portraits of Columbus, will attract the attention of the curious, and prove a valuable contribution to a subject hitherto involved in doubt and obscurity.

The narrative and journal of Capt. Thomas G. Anderson, never before published, give us some interesting glimpses of the wilderness region of Wisconsin, its white and red denizens, as they appeared from seventy to eighty years ago—the Indians and Indian trade of the Northwest; together with much new matter illustrative of the British expedition against Prairie du Chien, and its capture, in 1814. Mr. Brisbois', Mrs. Baird's, Judge Martin's, and Mr. Thomas' reminiscences of Wisconsin's early days, together with the biographical sketches of Gov. Washburn, Col. Larrabee, Judge Barron, Mr. Purple, Wm. Hull, Sat. Clark, and Judge Vilas, serve not only to impart interest and variety to the volume, but add not a little to our local history, and to a better understanding and truer estimate of several of the representative men of Wisconsin. L. C. D.