

And what a field of historic culture is still spread out before us! Look at the wide extended territory from Lake Superior on the North, to the Illinois prairies on the South, and from Lake Michigan on the East, to the Mississippi on the West—presenting an area of fifty-four thousand square miles, nearly as large as England and Wales combined, and five-sixths the size of Scotland and Ireland together. Such is Wisconsin!—and she can boast a history as varied and interesting as that of any of her sister States of the North-West. For ages the Red Man had roamed her luxuriant woodlands and undulating prairies, when the adventurous Catholic missionaries, nearly two hundred years ago, penetrated her borders, and planted missions at Depere, and at Che-goi-me-gon, or La Pointe, on Lake Superior. Marquette and his hardy band of explorers soon ascended Fox River, and down the Wisconsin, and from our own territory first discovered the great Father of Waters, the Mississippi. Following closely upon the self-denying missionaries in their indefatigable labors to plant the banner of the cross on our soil, came those untiring couriers of the wilderness, the traders or merchant princes of the forest, with their train of voyageurs, who, in the gainful pursuit of commerce, penetrated almost every portion of Wisconsin, where water-courses enabled them to float their light canoes, and reach the Indian settlements. Then followed in their order the successive and romantic French expeditions of De Louigny, Marin and De Lignery, for the chastisement of the intractable Sauk and Fox Indians. About 1745 the bold and adventurous De Langlades made at Green Bay, the first permanent settlement in Wisconsin; and the younger De Langlade led forth the tawny warriors of Wisconsin, who shared in the many sanguinary conflicts of the old French and Indian war, from Braddock's defeat, in 1755, to the final English conquest of Canada, in 1760. The location of an English garrison at Green Bay in 1761, and its evacuation in less than two years thereafter; the movements of Sieur Charles De Langlade and the Wisconsin Indians during the Revolutionary contest; the war of 1812, and the military affairs at Prairie du