

REPORT AND COLLECTIONS
OF THE
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN.

VOL. V. FOR THE YEAR 1869. PART III.

**Early History of Education in
Wisconsin**

[Presented before the State Historical Society by Hon. W. C. Whitford,
President of Milton College, in the Assembly Hall, Madison, Thurs-
day evening, February 20, 1868.]

Three distinct movements are noticed in the history of the settlement of our State, and, with each of these, independent and peculiar systems of education were introduced. The first movement is connected with the labors of the French missionaries among the Indian tribes; the second, with the discovery and the first working of the Lead Mines, and the third, with what is termed the "Western fever," which prevailed extensively in the Eastern States, just after the Black Hawk war.

French Missionaries and Traders

The French had acquired a foothold in Canada, and were establishing missionary stations on the St. Lawrence, along the Lakes, and down the Mississippi, while the English and the Dutch were forming their colonies on the Atlantic coast. The French Jesuits united the love of adventure and the desire to extend their national domain, with their devotion to the cross,