

Introductory

The eighth volume of *Collections* of our Historical Society presents quite a variety of topics pertaining to the early times, men, and events of Wisconsin. They very properly commence with the prehistoric era—and early copper mining on Lake Superior, and the ancient copper implements, which, of late years, have been brought to the surface by the plow in different portions of our State; and an account of the Pictured Cave of La Crosse Valley. Then among others, we have some new light respecting Nicolet's early visit to Wisconsin, and Professor Butler's paper on "Early Historic Relics of the Northwest."

Judge Martin has communicated some valuable, and hitherto unpublished, papers of the Langlade family—emphatically the pioneer settlers of Wisconsin; a traditionary account of the capture of Mackinaw, by Louis J. Porlier; followed by a series of ancient papers giving glimpses of Green Bay and the frontiers during the period of 1763–65. The sprightly "Reminiscences" of Mrs. Bristol, and Hon. Sat. Clark's "Early Times at Fort Winnebago," will be read by our surviving pioneers with much interest. What is adduced on the much controverted question of the Williams-Dauphin claim, will attract attention, even beyond the borders of Wisconsin; and will, we trust, go far towards dissipating all doubts as to Williams's true character, and leave the Indian missionary completely stripped of all his pretensions to having been Louis Seventeenth. The papers on the "Early Settlement of Juneau County," and of the "Swiss Colony of New Glarus," serve to rescue many important facts and details from forgetfulness, and preserve a record of the early self-denials and sufferings attendant on planting homes in the wilderness.

Other papers of value are necessarily reserved for our next volume—among them, Dr. Enoch Chase's personal narrative of early Milwaukee settlement; Mrs. Adele B. Gratiot's narrative of early times in the Lead Region; and Hon. J. E. Thomas's paper on the pioneer settlement of Sheboygan County. L. C. D.