

the *Miscellanies* of Col. De Peyster,¹ who was the British officer in command at Mackinaw in 1774 and five years after. This work was published anonymously, but the author wrote his name in a copy which he presented to Lady Dungannon, and which has been for more than thirty years treasured by Dr. Draper. One other copy of this work is known to be extant in America, and one abroad.

The United States survey of the Four Lakes was not executed till 1839. The officer who performed this work, Captain Cram, of the engineers, speaks of them as then well known by the numbers of one, two, three and four. The official figures respecting Fourth Lake, are: Length, six miles, breadth four, area fifteen and sixty-five one-hundredths miles, circumference nineteen miles and one-fourth.

Five years before this date, the government land survey took place, and the surveyor marked the lakes on his plot, "First, Second, Third and Fourth," as if their names were then, in 1834, as well established as that of Rock River itself. On Chandler's map, however, which was made in Galena, only five years earlier, in 1829, the lakes have no numbers, although there are several inscriptions about them, as "Fine farming land around these lakes," "Canoe portage two hundred yards," "Winnebago village," etc.

No record has met my eye as to why the numeration of the Four Lakes began from the south rather than from the north. Seeking for the reason may be thought as vain a search as that for the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee. Yet that reason seems to me clear. Exploration has usually been made by ascending rivers from their mouths and their peculiarities, if recurring in a series, are naturally classed in the order of discovery. Thus, on the Nile, the cataracts, as you go up that river, are numbered before you reach Khartoum from first to sixth. Accordingly, I am inclined to think the first English-speaking pioneers who came upon the Four Lakes, were acquainted with the custom of numbering up stream and followed it, no matter from what quarter they had, in fact, approached

¹ Vol. 1, p. 274.