

Preface to Reprint Edition

Although due in 1886, owing to some unavoidable delays volume x did not actually issue from the press until two years later. Dr. Draper's secretaryship had ended December 31, 1886, but subsequently he spent much time in finishing up his work; in the preparation of the General Index to volumes i-x he was assisted by the present writer. It should be explained, however, that this index was, so far as the first nine were concerned, based entirely upon the indices published in those volumes; by this method, whatever errors had crept into the individual indices were necessarily carried forward into the general index. It is our intention, when the time comes, to publish a new general index to cover volumes i-xx; this will involve a complete re-indexing of the first ten, to accord with present-day methods and ideals.

Volume x is particularly noticeable for an animated antiquarian controversy over the existence or non-existence of an early French fort on the site of Prairie du Chien. In his *History of Crawford and Richland Counties* (Springfield, Ill., 1884), and in a previous paper before the Madison Literary Club (January 14, 1884), Consul Willshire Butterfield had declared that "There was never within the boundaries of Crawford County a French military post of any kind." This statement called out vigorous rejoinders, herein published, from Dr. James D. Butler, Dr. Draper, and Dr. Edward D. Neill, who contended that Prairie du Chien was the site of at least two such forts—by La Salle and Perrot successively. Mr. Butterfield, having been shown the proofs of their respective articles, replied to his critics in a later contribution to the present volume. As will readily be evident to one reading between the