

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY INVOICES — 1821-22.

BY THE EDITOR.

About the year 1855, the effects of the American Fur Company at Mackinaw were transferred to Ronald McLeod, he purchasing the company's warehouse and office building. The latter structure is now (1888) in use as a summer hotel; the warehouse "is but little used or quite deserted at times." In 1863, several large packing boxes, filled with the company's books and papers, were opened by the holders of the real estate and "the contents variously used — for lighting fires and placing around cabbage plants when put in the ground, to protect them from the cut-worm." Mrs. B. F. Felix, a Chicago lady, with antiquarian tastes, saved several volumes from the hands of the vandals and presented them to the Chicago Historical Society. In 1870, Mrs. Felix was again in Mackinaw and discovered that in the pantry of the McLeod home there were still left some volumes of accounts and letters, "the leaves of which were being used to line cake-tins with." She again rescued several volumes, presenting all but three to the Chicago Historical Society. In the great fire of 1871, the Society's collections were largely destroyed, and these books of the American Fur Company with them. The only volumes now known to remain, of the lot first unboxed in 1863, are one volume of invoices in the possession of Mrs. Felix and two volumes of letters which are in the hands of a friend of that lady.¹

The volume of invoices — marked: "*Invoices Outward, A. F. Co. B.*" — was kindly loaned to me in October, 1887, by Mrs. Felix. It contains the outward invoices of the company

¹ Mrs. Felix is my authority for the above statements. She was of the opinion that volumes were in the library of the Western Reserve Historical Society, at Cleveland, Ohio, placed there by the late Alfred T. Goodman, secretary of that Society, but I am informed that none are now to be found in its archives.