

THE BOUNDARIES OF WISCONSIN.

BY THE EDITOR.

Wisconsin having been the fifth and last commonwealth formed out of the old Northwest Territory, and obliged to content herself with the remains after the dowries of her four older sisters had been apportioned out of the family estate, an adequate study of her boundaries involves a general historical survey of the division of that Territory into states.

Washington, "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," was first, too, in making suggestions as to the boundary lines of Northwestern states. September 7, 1783, we find him writing to James Duane, then a member of congress from New York, regarding the future of the country beyond the Ohio.¹ After giving some wise suggestions as to the management of both Indians and whites, in the vast region northwest of the river Ohio, he declares that the time is ripe for the blocking out of a state there. Here are the bounds proposed by the veteran surveyor: "From the mouth of the Great Miami river, which empties into the Ohio, to its confluence with the Mad river, thence by a line to the Miami fort and village on the other Miami river, which empties into Lake Erie, and thence by a line to include the settlement of Detroit, would, with Lake Erie to the northward, Pennsylvania to the eastward and the Ohio to the southward, form a government sufficiently extensive to fulfill all the public engagements, and to receive moreover a large population by emigrants." He continues: "Were it not for the purpose of comprehending the settlement of Detroit within the jurisdiction of the new government, a more compact and better shaped district for a state would be, for the line to proceed from the Miami

¹ Sparks's *Life and Writings of Washington*, viii., p. 477.