

drifted to Pontotoc, in northern Mississippi, where he became part owner and editor of a small weekly journal entitled, *Spirit of the Times*.<sup>1</sup> The paper was not a financial success, and at the close of a year his partner bought him out, giving in payment the deed to a tract of wild land in the neighborhood. There came to Pontotoc, about this time, a young lawyer named Charles H. Larrabee, afterward a prominent citizen of Wisconsin, where he became a circuit judge and a congressman. Larrabee had been a student with Draper at Granville. The professional outlook at Pontotoc not being rich with promise, Larrabee united his fortunes with those of his college-mate and together they moved upon Draper's tract. For about a year the young men "roughed it" in a floorless, windowless hut, a dozen miles from Pontotoc, the nearest post-office, raising sweet potatoes and living upon fare of the crudest character. In the summer of 1842 Draper received the offer of a clerkship under a relative who was Erie canal superintendent at Buffalo, and retraced his steps to the north, leaving Larrabee in sole possession. But the latter soon had a call to Chicago and followed his friend's example, leaving their crop of sweet potatoes ungarnered and their land to the mercy of the first squatter who chanced along.

The following year, however, Draper was back again in Pontotoc, where he made some interesting "finds" in the chests of the Mississippi pioneers. In 1844 he returned to Remsen's household, then near Baltimore.<sup>2</sup> After a time the family moved to Philadelphia, whither he accompanied them. For eight years thereafter Mr. Draper's principal occupation was the prosecution of his search for historical data, always collecting and seldom writing up any of his

---

<sup>1</sup> "*Spirit of the Times* — devoted to news, agriculture, commercial and literary intelligence." The prospectus for the venture, signed, "Leland and Draper," was dated May 8, 1841. The one copy of the little journal found among Dr. Draper's effects is dated September 18, 1841.

<sup>2</sup> He left Pontotoc in December, 1843. Journeying leisurely northward, visiting pioneers on the way, he called in March on Andrew Jackson, at the Hermitage. In a letter to *The Perry* (N. Y.) *Democrat*, dated Nashville, Tenn., March 16, 1844, he describes his visit and relates his conversation with the ex-president. See *ante*, p. 79.