

## THE PLANTING OF THE SWISS COLONY AT NEW GLARUS, WIS.

BY JOHN LUCHSINGER.<sup>1</sup>

Since writing a sketch of the Swiss colony of New Glarus, at the request of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, thirteen years ago, many changes have taken place in the conditions of the colony. Steadily prosperous, it has thriven beyond the most sanguine hopes of its projectors. Railroad and telegraph facilities have placed the hitherto secluded settlement in direct communication with the rest of the world. Modern thought and habit have come with modern inventions, but the people remain substantially the same. True, the first colonists have nearly all gone to their well-earned rest, but their direct descendants occupy the places of those who have died. The natural dislike of those of

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Luchsinger's admirable paper, "The Swiss Colony of New Glarus," in *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, viii., pp. 411-439, attracted much attention. It was the first monograph on the planting of an organized foreign colony in Wisconsin. At the present time, when, through the joint efforts of the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Historical Society, a healthy popular interest is being awakened in the history of the several foreign groups in this state, there has been a renewed call for the Luchsinger paper, but the volume containing it has long since been out of print. New and important facts, too, have been discovered by Mr. Luchsinger, and at my request he has rewritten his article, greatly enriched by additional documentary material, and brought down to date. It is practically a new monograph, drawn from original sources, and is of great value to all students of our composite nationality.

Mr. Luchsinger was born in the canton of Glarus, Switzerland, June 29, 1839, removing to America with his parents when but six years of age. He settled in New Glarus, Wisconsin, in 1856, and has for many years been prominent among the Swiss-Americans of Green county. He represented his district in the assemblies of 1873, 1876-78, and 1887. He is a lawyer, resident at Monroe. All foot-notes to this paper are by the author, unless otherwise signed.—ED.