

other nationalities to settle in a community so distinctly Swiss, and the inborn love of the Swiss for his own countrymen, have tended to prevent the mixture and assimilation of nationalities which is continually going on in other parts of the United States. New Glarus is still a Swiss colony, as much so as it was twenty years ago. In view of the fact that there are still a few of the first colonists yet living, from whom much information could be gathered which soon would be lost beyond recovery, it has been suggested by the editor of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections* that I rewrite the history of the colony at this time. In response to this desire, I have collected material not hitherto attainable or known, and hope to be able to do such justice to the subject as it deserves, and to merit in a greater degree the favor with which the sketch in vol. viii. was received.

The Colony.

In the northern part of Green county, Wisconsin, at the terminus of the Brodhead and New Glarus branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, is situated the township and village of New Glarus. This village and township were so named, after the town and canton of Glarus in eastern Switzerland, of which place nearly all of the inhabitants are natives or the descendants of natives.¹

¹ The canton of Glarus is one of the wildest and most mountainous in Switzerland. Two narrow valleys, traversed by swift mountain torrents fed by snows and glaciers, divide the canton into two sections. At the head of the greater valley, Gross-Thal, is a high mountain pass leading into the ancient canton of Uri. At the head of the smaller valley, Klein-Thal, is a similar pass leading into the Grisons, and thence on to upper Italy. Both of these passes, before the time of steam and railways, were much-used highways between Italy and Germany: in times of peace, for traders and travellers; in times of war, by armies of different nations of Europe. Judging from the situation of the canton and the names of localities, these valleys were originally peopled from both the north and south sides of the Alps. Undoubtedly, in the exterminating wars of ancient times, fugitives from religious and political proscription found a stern but safe asylum in the narrow, deep valleys, and on the steep mountain sides of Glarus. The southern element seems to have been strongest. Dark