

Lead-mining has played a conspicuous part in the history of Wisconsin. It early attracted a sturdy population to the southwest, and the shipment of lead and shot hastened the development of wagon-roads and steamboat navigation, materially assisted in the growth of the lake ports, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha, and knit together the widely divergent centers of population in Southwestern and Eastern Wisconsin. The Editor has presented "Notes on Early Lead-Mining in the Fever (or Galena) River Region," sketching the long and rather romantic history of the district previous to the inrush of American miners and speculators,—covering the operations of the Indians, the French, the Spanish, and the English. Here, Mr. Libby has picked up the thread, with his valuable paper on the "Significance of the Lead and Shot Trade in Early Wisconsin History." He dwells upon the economic aspects of the case, as affecting the channels of trade, aspirations for internal improvements, the movement of population, and the relations between East and West. His "Chronicle of the Helena Shot-Tower" is a detailed study, from the antiquarian point of view, of the rise and decline of the shot-making industry on the Wisconsin River, and incidentally is a social and economic study of the neighborhood.

In continuance of the Society's policy of presenting, as opportunities occur, careful studies of the several foreign groups in our midst, we take pleasure in publishing Xavier Martin's paper on the "Belgians of Northeast Wisconsin." Mr. Martin, himself one of the Belgian pioneers of 1853, has given us an interesting and authoritative account of their migration hither, their many sore trials, and their final development into prosperous Americanized communities; the story of Aux Premier Belges and its neighboring hamlets has many points in common with that of the Swiss settlement at New Glarus, about which Mr. Luchsinger so admirably told us in Volume XI.

"The Story of Chequamegon Bay" has not heretofore been fully set forth in these *Collections*. This far-away