

PREFACE.

The occupation of the Fox-Wisconsin waterway by the British, in 1814-15, while an interesting event, was not of great historical importance. No other incident in the pre-Territorial history of Wisconsin, however, save the Black Hawk War, has been so fertile in documentary materials. In Volume III. of these *Collections*, Augustin Grignon's "Recollections" first brought out the story of this invasion of our soil; in Volume IX., Thomas G. Anderson, a captain in the English garrison at Prairie du Chien (Fort McKay), gave us a narrative of the occupation,—written in his dotage,—which, while in many particulars correct, and containing some contemporary documents, is often marred by a wilful perversion of facts, for purposes of self-glorification and consequent depreciation of his superiors; in Volume XI., Douglas Brymner, the eminent Canadian archivist, kindly presented to us the first reliable military account of the affair, based on official documents in his charge; in Volumes X., XI., and XII., the "Dickson and Grignon Papers," all of them contemporary documents, threw further light on the matter; and in the present volume, the story is probably completed by the presentation of the papers of Capt. A. H. Bulger, who was in command of Fort McKay during the greater part of the period of occupation,—to these being added two brief explanatory articles by his son, Alfred E. Bulger, of Montreal. Were the object merely to give the military history of this brief episode, it might be doubted whether so much space should be devoted to the matter, after Mr. Brymner's satisfactory statement of the case; but the "Dickson and Grignon Papers" and the "Bulger Papers" incidentally illustrate other features of our early history, being valuable con-