

what is now Wisconsin then formed an integral part. The result is so satisfactory that it is fortunate that an earlier publication was not attempted; for not until now has such complete treatment been practicable.

It is perhaps unnecessary to state that the originals of all these documents were written in the French language, the greater number of them being Englished for this volume; the principal exceptions are those borrowed direct from the New York *Colonial Documents*, which were translated under the editorship of E. B. O'Callaghan. In earlier years, editors of historical material were less solicitous than the present generation, to reproduce originals *verbatim et literatim*. Liberties were freely taken, especially with manuscripts, which often were modernized and otherwise "improved" out of all semblance; thus was history falsified in a measure, for it is only by having before us the original document, or an exact reproduction of it (so far as typography permits), that we can fairly study the writer and his times. Such documents as we have reproduced from the originals, are, in accordance with the custom of this series, presented with such of their textual eccentricities as can be expressed in translation; those copied from other published collections are necessarily as therein given—in most cases, obviously modernized in form, although doubtless otherwise unimpaired, save for possible unintentional errors in transcription and translation. The original transcripts made for us in Paris, are preserved in the Society's library.

It has been deemed best to present the material in chronological sequence, regardless of source. In each case the source is indicated, for the benefit of scholars who may wish to consult the original, and such explanatory notes are given as seem essential to the elucidation of the text. That the series may be complete, references are made, in their proper place, to documents previously published in these COLLECTIONS. In the case of the *Jesuit Relations*, only synopses are for the most part given, for the reason that the new edition (in 73 volumes) is now obtainable in many of the libraries of the Northwest—although some of the most important Wisconsin material therein is here reproduced in full. Documents from other sources are usually