

As a boy he neglected no opportunity to see and converse with distinguished pioneers and patriots. In 1825, when but ten years of age, he feasted his eyes upon La Fayette, during the latter's celebrated visit to the United States; and to the last declared that he had a vivid recollection of the lineaments of that distinguished personage. Lewis Cass, DeWitt Clinton, and other celebrities of his youth, he also saw and heard at Lockport; while the presence in the village, on various occasions, of the noted Seneca chiefs, Tommy Jimmy, Major Henry O'Bail, and others, were, to the young enthusiast in border history, like visitations from a realm of fancy. La Fayette was the subject of young Draper's first school composition. His earliest article for the press, published in the Rochester *Gem* for April 6, 1833, was a sketch of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, the last of the "signers." One of the first historical works he ever read was Campbell's *Annals of Tryon County; or, Border Warfare of New York*, published in 1831. This and other publications of the time were replete with lurid accounts of border disturbances, well calculated to fire the imagination of youth.

Peter A. Remsen, a cotton factor at Mobile, Alabama, had married young Draper's cousin. Taking a fancy to the young historical student, then eighteen years old, Remsen invited Draper to spend the winter at Mobile. Thither he accordingly went, staying at Remsen's home until May of the following year. While there, he chiefly occupied himself in collecting information regarding the career of the famous Creek chief, Weatherford, many of whose contemporaries lived in the neighborhood of the Alabama metropolis. These manuscript notes, the product of his youthful investigations are, like the greater portion of his materials for history, still mere unused literary bricks and stone.

In 1834, during his nineteenth year, Draper entered the college at Granville, Ohio, now styled Denison University. Here he remained for over two years as an undergraduate. He appears to have made a good record as a student, but was compelled from lack of money to leave the institution. Remsen had returned to New York from the South, and was now living in the neighborhood