

**THE HISTORY OF ILLINOIS,
FROM ITS
EARLIEST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME**

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The history of Illinois, from its earliest settlement to the present time by W. H. Carpenter & T. S. Arthur

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W. H. CARPENTER & T. S. ARTHUR

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EDITED BY

W. H. CARPENTER,
AND
T. S. ARTHUR.

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PUBLISHERS' PREFACE.

THERE are but few persons in this country who have not, at some time or other, felt the want of an accurate, well written, concise, yet clear and reliable history of their own or some other state.

The want here indicated is now about being supplied; and, as the task of doing so is no light or superficial one, the publishers have given into the hands of the two gentlemen whose names appear in the title-page, the work of preparing a series of CABINET HISTORIES, embracing a volume for each state in the Union. Of their ability to perform this well, we need not speak. They are no strangers in the literary world. What they undertake the public may rest assured will be performed thoroughly; and that no sectarian, sectional, or party feelings will bias their judgment, or lead them to violate the integrity of history.

The importance of a series of state histories like those now commenced, can scarcely be estimated. Being condensed as carefully as accuracy and interest of narrative will permit, the size and price of the volumes will bring them within the reach of every family in the country, thus making them home-reading books for old and young. Each individual will,

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in consequence, become familiar, not only with the history of his own state, but with that of other states:—thus mutual interest will be re-awakened, and old bonds cemented in a firmer union.

In this series of **CABINET HISTORIES**, the authors, while presenting a concise but accurate narrative of the domestic policy of each state, will give greater prominence to the personal history of the people. The dangers which continually hovered around the early colonists; the stirring romance of a life passed fearlessly amid peril; the incidents of border warfare; the adventures of hardy pioneers; the keen watchfulness, the subtle surprise, the ruthless attack, and prompt retaliation—all these having had an important influence upon the formation of the American character, are to be freely recorded. While the progressive development of the citizens of each individual state from the rough forest-life of the earlier day to the polished condition of the present, will exhibit a picture of national expansion as instructing as it is interesting.

The size and style of the series will be uniform with the present volume. The authors, who have been for some time collecting and arranging materials, will furnish the succeeding volumes as rapidly as their careful preparation will warrant.

PREFACE.

THE history of Illinois presents many points of singular interest. The villages of Cahokia, Kaskaskia, and Vincennes were founded by French missionaries at a very early period; and the territory formed a part of the French possessions in America until it was ceded to Great Britain in 1763. The romantic expedition of George Rogers Clarke wrested it from the latter power during the Revolutionary War, though it received very little increase of population from immigration until after the commencement of the present century. Since then its delicious climate, and the unexampled fertility of its soil, has been duly appreciated, while the vast works of internal improvement, either completed or in rapid course of construction, attest the energy and enterprise of its people. The

author of this book has endeavoured to exhibit the progress of the State in its several stages of growth; and it is believed that nothing has been omitted that might be regarded either as interesting in itself or as characteristic of its inhabitants.