

**HISTORY OF THE
DISCOVERY OF
THE VALLEY OF
THE MISSISSIPPI**

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History of the Discovery of the Valley of the Mississippi by Adolphus M. Hart

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BY
ADOLPHUS M. HART.

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PREFACE.

THERE being no work of the same compass, in the English language, devoted to this interesting branch of History, and it being especially intended for the use of Academies and schools, the author might have dispensed with the necessity of furnishing a preface to make the general reader acquainted with the character and object of the publication. He deems it necessary, however, to remark, that the following pages comprise an abstract of all that has been written in the books and manuscripts that are extant, relating to the early history of this part of the American Continent. The subject is one, which will no doubt be hereafter more fully developed, as the works of other writers are brought to light. In the mean time he has been obliged to rely chiefly on those sources of information, which are found in the scarce French works, that have been published on this subject, as well as in a few of the manuscripts of the early discoverers of the valley of the Mississippi, to which he has been permitted to have access.

St. Louis, February, 1852.

ADOLPHUS M. HART.

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THERE are many historical associations, which cluster around the ancient denizens of Canada, in their efforts to colonize this section of the American Continent, and to rescue it from the savage tribes, who wandered in its pathless deserts. Canada was the gateway, through which the pioneers of civilization entered, to disclose to the world the rich and exhaustless treasures of the West, or rather it may be likened to the portal of a mansion, through which admission was gained to the inner chambers, ornamented with every production of nature, and disclosing to the view, in their gaudy array, pictures, which had never been dreamt of, in the wildest efforts of the human imagination. The poor and ignoble Colonist, who emigrated in the seventeenth century, from the hills and valleys of his native country, with his axe in