

**HISTORY OF  
WISCONSIN UNDER THE  
DOMINION OF FRANCE**

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History of Wisconsin Under the Dominion of France by S. S. Hebbard

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**S. S. HEBBERD**

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3-6, 5, 1890

**Dominion of France.**

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BY

*S. S. Hebbard*  
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S. S. HEBBERD.

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1890.

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TO MY COMRADES  
OF THE  
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,  
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN,  
THIS EARLY HISTORY OF OUR STATE  
IS DEDICATED.





## PREFACE.

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This book deals with one of the most important chapters of American history; and yet one heretofore quite unknown. The story of the French Empire in America has long been invested with a deep dramatic and philosophic interest; for, it has been well understood that upon the downfall of that dominion depended the rise of American liberty. And in these pages I hope to show that the French struggle for supremacy over the continent was, to a large extent, decided by events that took place in Wisconsin. Here was the entering wedge of disaster and ruin. Here happened the real although obscure crisis in a great drama of which the Fall of Quebec was merely the closing scene.

The main reason why these matters have not been understood is, that the history of the West has yet to be written. Our chief historical works have heretofore come from the far East; and contemplated at that distance, affairs in the West have seemed but dim and trivial

episodes in the story of what has happened on the narrow strip of land between the Alleghenies and the Atlantic. An adequate history of America can not be written from so one-sided a point of view.

But the materials for the new history are being gathered rapidly and in great abundance. It is surprising how much light has been thrown, within a very few years, upon the early history of the West by such great publications as the *Collection de Manuscrits relatifs a la Nouvelle France*, the *Margry Manuscripts*, *Brymmers Canadian Reports* and *Winsor's Narrative and Critical History*; also by the invaluable volumes of *Faillon*, *Ferland*, *Tailhan*, *Harrisse*, *Sulte*, *Shea*, *Parkman*, *Neill*, *Butterfield* and others; last but by no means least, by the material printed in the *Collections of the Wisconsin and Minnesota Historical Societies* or preserved in their libraries.

And yet the most important part of this work remains to be done. The State of Wisconsin ought immediately to take measures for the exploration of the Archives at Paris where there are still sealed up many invaluable papers pertaining to her past. Wisconsin, among all her sister states, occupies the central and most

important position in the early annals of the country; and her citizens ought to feel a patriotic interest in having her history brought fully to the light. It has been my chief hope in writing this book, that it might contribute somewhat to that result.

I have been compelled, in many different parts of this volume, to very decidedly dissent from the conclusions reached by that eloquent and indefatigable historian, Parkman, both in his book upon La Salle and that upon the Conspiracy of Pontiac. But this, however much to be regretted, was unavoidable. Mr. Parkman has been amazingly unfortunate in his choice of La Salle as his hero and "the chief actor in the discovery of the West." The greatest genius, crippled by such misconceptions, could only attain to distorted and deceptive views. Similarly, although not to the same great extent, his account of the Conspiracy of Pontiac is defective; and that striking passage in Western history remains yet to be described from a point of view which has entirely escaped his notice.

I expect and desire to be criticised myself. All but the first quarter of this book is, in every essential respect, entirely new. The history, especially of the period from 1700 to 1763, I