

**HISTORY OF MICHIGAN,
FROM ITS
EARLIEST COLONIZATION
TO THE PRESENT TIME**

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History of Michigan, from Its Earliest Colonization to the Present Time by James H. Lanman

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P R E F A C E.

THE design of this volume is to present to the reader, in a brief and popular form, a view of the principal events connected with the history, progress, and present condition of Michigan, condensed from the larger work prepared by the author under the sanction of a law of that State. Such a work, embracing a great variety of particulars relating to the early settlement and subsequent growth of the West, would, it was thought, be both useful and interesting. The rapid advance of the vast territory bordering on the lakes in population and wealth, is the best commentary on the nature and effects of our free institutions, and offers a political phenomenon well worthy of being studied.

For my facts I have relied principally upon Father Marquette, Hennepin, Joutel, La Hontan, Charlevoix, Rogers, Henry, Carver, M'Kenzie, Bouchette, and M'Gregor, and have consulted with particular care Mr. Bancroft's great

work, the "History of the Colonization of the United States." The discourses, also, which have from time to time been delivered before the Michigan Historical Society, by Cass, Schoolcraft, Whiting, and Biddle, I found full of valuable information. Nor must I omit to acknowledge the great obligations I am under to my friend Mr. Schoolcraft, for his kindness in permitting me to consult his library, which is especially rich in everything relating to the West, as freely as if it had been my own. Besides these means of information, a residence in the interior of the state for a considerable period has afforded me a knowledge of its actual condition, which could not, perhaps, have been obtained in any other way.

If in this work, prepared during the intervals of professional labour, I shall have succeeded in presenting an impartial history of this interesting State, and in a manner to entertain and instruct the intelligent reader, my object will have been fully accomplished.

J. H. L.

New York, August 15th, 1841.

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