PREFACE.

The author of this volume has long been impressed with the fact, that much information relative to the early and later history of Madison and adjacent country, had not been written; and that some one should undertake the task of compiling the necessary materials for such a work, availing himself of the opportunity now afforded to consult those of our citizens who established themselves here as pioneers and early settlers, before circumstances should render it impossible to do so. Many of these have passed away; others have removed to new localities, and the few that now remain, will, in the ordinary course of events, be with us but a short period.

It is true, that a portion of our history has been written. To Maj. H. A. Tenney we are indebted for many interesting facts collected in past time, which were published in a small pamphlet in 1851, and subsequently re-printed. In 1857, Hon. L. C. Draper prepared a similar work, much enlarged; but these pamphlets, while they accomplished the object of their publication, in drawing public attention to the beauty and desirability of Madison as a place of settlement, did not go into the minutiae of our early history, and necessarily were written up only to the date of publication, and are now out of print. The changes and improvements that have since taken place, have been so marked as to entitle Madison to a history more complete and brought down to the present time, and the present work is designed to supply such a deficiency.

It is not necessary to offer any apology for local history—the main object of which is to furnish the first elements of general history, to record facts rather than deductions from facts. In these municipalities—these separate incorporations—are to be found many of the first moving causes which tend to operate on and revolutionize public
opinion. Many facts, minute in themselves, are in this view very important. The details, which is the appropriate province of the local historian to spread before the public, are not so much history itself, as materials for history, leaving to the general historian, who has before him all these details, to exhibit the connection of the several parts, and their dependence one upon another.

The present volume has been prepared from information derived from the Madison newspaper files in the library of the Historical Society — from pioneers — from the village, town and city records, and every reliable authority accessible; and, it is believed, that what is herein stated is in all respects true; or, if there are errors, they will not be found important.

The writer is greatly indebted to many of the early settlers for the interest they have taken in the publication of this volume, and for their personal reminiscences of early times; among these may be named Mrs. Roseline Peck, of Baraboo, Wis., the first settler of that place as well as Madison; R. L. Ream, Esq., of Washington, D. C.; Gen. S. Mills, of Madison; Hon. M. M. Strong, of Mineral Point, Wis.; J. T. Clark, Esq., of Topeka, Kansas; Dr. C. B. Chapman, Maj. H. A. Tenney, and R. W. Lansing, Esq., of Madison. Thanks are also due to Lyman C. Draper, LL. D., Secretary of the State Historical Society, for valuable assistance. Among this number also, who took a deep interest in the enterprise, was the Hon. John Catlin, one of our most honored pioneers. This gentleman, while laboring under protracted illness, furnished much information of his early residence at Madison.

While this work was passing through the press, and on the 4th of August, 1874, he departed this life at his residence at Elizabeth, N. J., in the 71st year of his age, highly respected by every one.

The illustrated edition of this work has been prepared by Mr. N. P. Jones, Photographer, Madison, whose reputation in his department is unrivalled.

Madison, Wis., October 1, 1874.