

## PREFACE.

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THE object of this work is to place upon record in a reliable manner and in a permanent form, whatever incidents of importance have transpired within the limits of Columbia County since its first settlement. As preliminary to this, a brief history of Wisconsin is given, including, respectively, the Antiquities of the State; an account of its Indian tribes; a sketch of pre-Territorial times; an outline of Wisconsin when a Territory; and a narrative of each Administration since the admission of the State into the Union. This is followed by articles on the Topography and Geology of the State; on its Climatology; on its Trees, Shrubs, and Vines; on the Fauna of Wisconsin; on the Educational Interests of the State; on its Agriculture, Mineral Resources, and Railroads; on Lumber Manufacture, Banking, Commerce and Manufactures; and on the Public Domain and Health. These are from the pens of able and well-known Wisconsin writers. Following these articles, are Statistics of the State, and an Abstract of its Laws and Constitution, and of the Constitution of the United States.

In the history of the county, facts and figures, incidents and reminiscences, anecdotes and sketches are given, with a variety and completeness, it is thought, commensurate with their importance. This has necessitated, on the part of the editor-in-chief and his assistants, a persevering effort; but their labor has been cheered by the cordial assistance and good will of many friends to the enterprise within the county, to all of whom grateful acknowledgements are tendered. They have enabled us to give to the present generation a valuable reflex, it is believed, of the times and deeds of pioneer days, and to erect to pioneer men and women of Columbia County a lasting monument. We desire, also, to express our sincere thanks to Prof. R. D. IRVING, of the University of Wisconsin, for assistance rendered in furnishing articles upon the geology of the county and its various towns; and to the officers of the State Historical Society for numerous favors received at their hands.

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