

Preface

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PREFACE¹

THE following pages are presented to the public in the hope that, imperfect as in many respects they are, they may still be the means of effecting some good, by assisting in directing the attention of Emigrants and others, to a portion of the United States, which all, who have examined it, unite in representing—to use the words of a distinguished English traveller—as “one of the finest domains that nature ever offered to man.”

So superior are its attractions, that those who have never seen them, will probably be inclined to doubt the correctness of their faithful delineation.

Under this impression, the writer, to corroborate the views which a continuous residence upon the spot, since 1836, has enabled him to form—has taken the liberty of availing himself, freely, of the interesting testimony of many other eye witnesses; the combined weight of which, it is hoped, will prove sufficient to satisfy even the most sceptical, that Iowa and Wisconsin are, at least, worth *visiting*.

The *second part* of these “Sketches,” (embracing Wisconsin) being in a state of forwardness, is intended to appear with as little delay as possible.

SINQUEE, WISCONSIN, MAY, 1839.

IOWA.

THE TERRITORY OF IOWA, considered in reference to that portion of it to which the Indian title has become extinct, is embraced between 40 deg. 20 min., and 43 deg. north latitude, being bounded by the State of Missouri on the south, and the Mississippi river on the east. The limits of the Territory, on the north and west, extend much farther than those of the district now subject to occupation by settlers; the length of which, at present, is about two hundred miles, by fifty in breadth; equivalent to ten thousand square miles, or nearly six and a half millions of acres. This has been purchased from the Sauk and Fox Indians, at three different treaties; the first in 1832, the next in 1836, and the last in 1838.

The Territory takes its name from that of one of its beautiful rivers, which runs entirely across the present purchase. Permission to settle in Iowa was first granted to the white man on the first of June, 1833. The unparalleled rapidity with which the torrent of immigration has since poured into this Western Paradise, may be inferred from the official returns of the census taken in May, 1838; according to which, it appears the population had increased, within less than five years, from

¹We have followed the capitalization, spelling, punctuation, etc., as they are in the original “Sketches.”—Editor.

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