

*Economic and Social Beginnings of Michigan, A Study of the Settlement of the Lower Peninsula During the Territorial Period, 1805-1837.* By GEORGE NEWMAN FULLER, Ph.D., Lansing; 1916, pp lxxii+ 630.

DR. FULLER has divided his subject into ten chapters, as follows: Physical Conditions, General Influences, the Eastern Shore, the First Inland Counties, St. Joseph Valley and Chicago Road, Kalamazoo and Valley and Territorial Road, the Saginaw Country, the Grand River Region, Source and Character of Population, and Conclusion. The text is fully illustrated by maps and amply fortified with references. The wide interest in the history of Old Detroit gives the volume more than a local importance. From 1700 to 1815 Detroit was the French and English capital of all the western country. As such it belongs to the whole northern Mississippi valley. Also in Governor Lewis Cass the author has a character well-known nationally for almost half a century. Detroit, after the opening up of the country to settlement, was the center of immigration and commerce. Highways from it led west to Chicago and south into Indiana, making it the commercial center for the pioneer trade just as it had been for a century of the Indian trade. The author has confined himself, as the title indicates, to the civil side of history. The Indian, French and English wars that frequently devastated the lower peninsula are not mentioned. Of special interest is the chapter on the source and character of the population. "The Irish were the leading foreign element, with the English and the Germans close rivals. Scotch and Canadians were few. New York led in the native population, with New England close." Foreigners made up 27 per cent, New Yorkers 37 per cent, New Englanders 21 per cent, others 8 per cent. These conclusions are based on a single typical county, Washtenaw, directly west of Detroit. The volume is well-written, the author has taken advantage of all available material and has produced a book that will supplement and supersede the other histories such as those of Campbell, Cooley, Farmer, Lanman and Sheldon.