HE HEADLIGHT.

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MONROE.

The material at hand affords ample scope for an extended retrospective history of Monroe, as the story of its founding is replete with stirring historical anecdotes and romantic traditions, and we would that space permitted a relation of these interesting details. However, a few facts directly connected with the founding of the city are given below:

The site of the village, now city of Monroe, quoting from the History of Monroe County, was occupied as farming land, and the Loranger farm was in 1817 platted by Joseph Loranger into village lots. At that time there were no bridges, and settlers had to ford the river in the summer months where the water was low. The first schoolmaster was a Mr. Hieck, who occupied a log house on the north side of the river between the Clark and Downing farms. The first school taught on the south side of the River Raisin was by Isaac P. Skinner, who will be remembered as the Register of Deeds for Monroe county for many years thereafter. He occupied as a school house a large building built for and so many years used as a distillery on the river banks. At that time the families living here made preparations to flee from the country, apprehensive of the ravages of hostile Indians, who were in hordes traveling the country. On the 30th of July, 1805, the first United States District Court was held by Chief Justice Augustus B. Woodward, at the house of Jean Baptiste Jereanne, on the north bank of the River Raisin, in the eastern part of the present city of Monroe. During the year 1807, the Indian title was relinquished to all lands in the county of Monroe, excepting a tract three miles square known as the 'Macon Reserve,' subsequently ceded by the Indians to the Catholic church of St. Ann, Detroit, and later acquired by the Hon. Isaac P. Christiany, and called the Christiany tract. When the war was declared, June 18, 1812, it was impossible for Americans to remain with any degree of safety, and

so intolerable was the annoyance and danger, they, with their families, fled to Ohio and Kentucky, the French to Detroit and Canada, and for the following three years this portion of the state was deserted. Immediately after their flight, Col. Proctor ordered the stockade burned through fear it might fall into the hands of the American forces. During the next three years, however, mails were regularly carried from Detroit to Sandusky by the Indian trails.

One after another of the families who had fled before the war of 1812, returned during the years of 1816, 1817 and 1818 to Frenchtown, the principal settlement on the north side of the River Raisin. All of the stores and trading posts were on the north bank of the river. A strife then arose for the location of the county-seat on the site of Frenchtown, but the proposition of Joseph Loranger to locate in the town of Monroe in consideration of his granting public lands, with streets and

alleys, was accepted and the county-seat was established on the south side of the river, the present site of the city of Monroe. Monroe county was established in 1817, then including all of Lenawee and a portion of the present counties of Wayne and Washtenaw. September 4, 1817, the town of Monroe was established and made the county seat of Monroe county. In December of the same year provision was made for the construction of the first court house on the southwest quarter of the Public Square, a little in front of the present site of the First Presbyterian church. It was in front of this building the whipping post was located where criminals were sentenced to be lashed.

PRESENT RESOURCES.

The Monroe of to-day is a credit and an ornament to the State of Michigan, a city of which its citizens are justly proud. Where formerly the howls of wild beasts and the war whoop of the equally wild