Lake Michigan: sailing up the large recess in its north-eastern portion, Green bay, he arrives among the Monononies at the mouth of the river of the same name, not far away from the "Men of the Sea," better known afterwards under the name of "Winnebagoes."

They were the chief object of his expedition and he went into their midst while ascending the Fox river. But here I will let the Relation of 1643 speak for me; I think the explorer will be better understood as thus described by a contemporary:

"While he was occupying this office (clerk and interpreter) he was chosen to make a journey to the tribe called 'The People of the Sea' to conclude peace with them, and with the Hurons who are about 300 leagues farther west [east] than they. He embarked for [from] the territory of the Hurons with seven savages; they encountered a number of small tribes in coming and going; when they arrived there they drove two sticks into the ground and hung presents upon them to prevent the people from taking them for enemies and murdering them. At a distance of two days' journey from this tribe he sent one of his savages to carry them the news of peace which was well received especially when they heard that it was a European who brought the message. They despatched several young men to go to meet..."

1 Paddling; canoes were not used on canoes, in those days. — Ed.
2 Northwestern portion of Lake Michigan, not northeastern. The author's knowledge of local geography is faulty. — Ed.
3 Not known as the Menomonee river until long after. — Ed.
4 Properly "Quinipeg" from the word "Quinipex," by which the Algonquins meant "bad smelling water," as salt-water was by them designated. "Quinipigou" signified to the Algonquins, "Men of the Salt-water," "Men of the Sea." In the Relations and elsewhere the Winnebagoes are frequently called "the Nation of Stinkards" [Nation des Puans]; and Green Bay at the head of which they lived "la Baie des Puans," this arose from the fact that the French, not taking into consideration the extension of the word "Quinipeq," translated "Quinipigou" by the "Nation of Bad Smelling Water." The writer of the Relation of 1643 protests against this interpretation: according to him this tribe should not be called otherwise than the "Men of the Sea." [C. W. Butterfield, loc. cit.] — H. J.
5 The country of the Winnebagoes. — Ed.
the manitou, that is, the wonderful man; they come, they escort him, they carry all his baggage. He was clothed in a large garment of China damask strown with flowers and birds of various colors. As soon as he came in sight all the women and children first, seeing a man carry muskets in both hands. They called thus the two pistols he was holding. The news of his coming spread immediately to the surrounding places; four or five thousand men assembled. Each of the chiefs gave him a banquet and at one of them at least one hundred and twenty beavers were served. Peace was concluded.

The Chinese costume that Nicolet wore in his first interview with the "People of the Sea" indicates that he expected to see some mandarin come to meet him, to whom rumor might have announced his arrival. As was ascertained later, the so-called Asiatics were no other than the redskins since known as the Dakotas and the Sioux.\footnote{The Sioux are a branch of the Dacotah family.—Ed.}

Nicolet had arrived at something like 400 leagues from Quebec; it was then that he became acquainted with the Mississippi, if not de visu at least by hearsay. Crossing the portage which separates the Fox from the Wisconsin river and descending the latter, he proceeded as far as its confluence with the Mississippi, being thus the first Frenchman to greet the "Great Water."\footnote{The traditional translation of "Mississippi" by "Father of Waters" is erroneous; the true meaning is the "Great Water," the "Great River," from the Algonquin words Missi "great," Equa "water," "river."—C. W. Buttersfield, loc. cit.—H. J.} Or indeed, when, having returned to Quebec, he asserted that if he had sailed three days longer upon a great river, he would have found the sea.\footnote{Relation of 1640.—H. J.} Was this great river of which he spoke the Mississippi or merely the Wisconsin river whose course would have conducted him to the Mississippi?\footnote{It is abundantly proven in Buttersfield's Discovery of the Northwest, p. 67, et seq., that Nicolet did not discover the Wisconsin river, but only proceeded as far up the Fox as the village of the Muscowsins,—probably in what is now Green Lake county, Wh.—and then departed southward, for the Illinois country.—Ed.} Under the influence of preconceived ideas,
did he not take what was designated to him by the name of "Great Water" for the Pacific ocean or at least for a great water-course that emptied into it. The Winnabagoes spoke a language that differed radically from that of the Hurons and Algonquins; is it certain that he fully understood his interlocutors? These are doubtful points in the discussion of which would carry me too far beyond the limits that I have drawn for myself; yet one may ask why it was that Nicolet, believing himself only three days' journey from the sea, should not have gone and verified the fact; was it because he was so far convinced that he deemed this verification needless?

It appears quite certain however that he did not limit his journey to the Fox and Wisconsin rivers but that he proceeded southward into the territory inhabited by the Illinois. The Relations written after 1636 by Fathers Le Jeune and Vincent, contain indeed much information given by Nicolet upon the country and the people southwest of Lake Michigan. He was the first Frenchman to penetrate so far in that direction.

Retracing his steps he re-entered Quebec at the beginning of autumn 1635 with a rich store of observations of every sort, having acquired for French influence and by peaceful means only, large populations until then unknown. It is probable that he would not have ceased his adventurous travels had not the death of Champlain, which occurred soon after his return, suspended for a time this kind of undertaking. Nicolet was then stationed, in his office of clerk and interpreter, at the post of Three Rivers, the most turbu-

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1 For a long while it was believed that the Mississippi emptied into the Pacific ocean; the contrary was made known only in 1693 by the explorations of the chevalier La Salle, and indeed it was necessary to wait seventeen years for the question to be fully decided by Lemoine d'Iberville noting the mouth of the river by water. (Benj. Suite, loc. cit.)—H. J.

2 See Benj. Suite, Mélanges d'Histoire et de Littérature, 1870, and C. W. Duttonfield, loc. cit.—H. J.

3 This conveys a wrong impression. The author should say "southwest of Green bay," or "west of Lake Michigan."—Ed.

4 Benj. Suite, Mélanges d'Hist. et de Litt., 1870.—H. J.
lent and uncertain in the whole country. He performed his duties here "to the great satisfaction of the French and Indians by whom he was equally and above all others loved." Two years later, in October, 1637, he married at Quebec, a god-daughter of Champlain, Margaret, daughter of William Couillard, who arrived there in 1613 as carpenter and colonist and later became a farmer. This name, Couillard, common in the department of La Manche, would lead one to believe that he was from our province.

Nicolet owned in common with his brother-in-law Olivier le Tardif, general agent of the company, an estate which the lords of Bellechasse won through, hence the title of "Sieur de Belleborne" given to him in some documents of that time.

In October, 1642, while he was at Quebec, where for a month or two he had been taking the place of his brother-in-law who was spending some time in France, the Algonquins of Three Rivers took prisoner an Indian of New England, whose nation was allied to the Iroquois, our enemies. The unfortunate creature was to be put to death, not immediately, but after he had first suffered all the refinements of torture in use among the redskins; in vain the French agents and their missionaires interceded in his favor, their interference only redoubled the fury of the tormentors. It was then that Nicolet was sent for in the hope that his influence over the savages might save the prisoner. Nicolet did not hesitate a moment; his devotion was appealed to, and this devotion was to cost him his life; — but again let us hear the author of the Relation of 1643:

"I will add here a word about the life and death of M. Nicolet, interpreter and clerk of the gentlemen of the Com-

1 Relation of 1648.—H. J.

2 Margaret must have been very young as her father was married in 1621. William Couillard (or Couillart, the name is written in both ways) was the second Canadian ploughman by order of date. He was one of the Frenchmen who remained in Canada during the occupation of Quebec by the English from 1631 to 1632. His popularity as a general thing continues to be sufficiently numerous to-day to make it possible to form a battalion of 800 men composed of Couillards able to carry arms.—BENJ. SULZER.
pany of New France; he died ten days after Father Charles Raymbault, deceased Oct. 22, 1612.

"M. Ollivier, general agent of the Company, having gone the year before to France, the said M. Nicolet went down to Quebec in his place, with great gladness and comfort that he could see the peace and devotion of Quebec; but he did not long enjoy it, for a month or two after his arrival, while making a journey to Three Rivers in order to deliver an Indian prisoner, his zeal cost him his life and he was shipwrecked. He embarked at Quebec at seven o'clock in the evening in the launch of M. de Saviigny, which was going to Three Rivers. They had not yet arrived at Sillery when a gust of the northeast wind that had raised a terrible storm on the great river caused the launch to fill, and it sank to the bottom, having turned a couple of times in the water. Those on board did not sink at once but clung for some time to the launch. M. Nicolet had time to say to M. de Saviigny: 'Save yourself sir, you can swim, I can not, I go to my God. I intrust to you my wife and daughter.' The waves tore them, one after another, from the boat which, capsized, swung back and forth upon a rock. M. de Saviigny alone threw himself into the water and swam amidst the waves that seemed like little mountains. The launch was not very far from shore but it was an intensely dark night, and it was so bitter cold that the edges of the river were already frozen. The said M. de Saviigny, feeling his strength and courage failing him, made a prayer to God and soon after he felt the ground beneath his feet, and drawing himself out of the water he came to our house at Sillery half-dead. He remained a long time unable to speak, then at last related to us the fatal accident which, besides the death of M. Nicolet, a loss to the whole country, had cost him three of his best men and a large part of his goods and provisions. Both he and his wife bore this great loss in a barbarous country with great patience and resignation to the will of God, and with undiminished courage. The savages of Sillery, when they learned of the shipwreck of M. Nicolet, hastened to the
spot, and seeing him no more showed signs of unspeakable regret. It was not the first time that this man had exposed himself to death for the good and safety of the savages. He had done it often and he has left us an example of the life of a married man which partakes of the apostolic life and which leaves to the most fervently religious man a desire to imitate him.”

Some days later the prisoner was ransomed by the governor of Three Rivers and once cured of the injuries that the Algonquins had inflicted upon him, he was sent back to his country under the safe conduct of two Christian savages. It is quite possible that the devotion of which Nicolet had given abundant proof and which had cost him so dearly, may have contributed to his deliverance.

Thus this good man died, in the prime of life, victim of a common accident, after having escaped a thousand dangers during seventeen years of his life in the woods. One cannot help comparing this fate to that of Dumont d’Urville, perishing miserably at the gates of Paris in a railroad accident!

Two brothers of Jean Nicolet had come from Cherbourg to join him in the colony; one, Gilles, born at Cherbourg, a secular priest, arrived in 1635 and left in 1647; the other, Peter, who was a sailor, left a short time after Jean’s death. I have found no more trace of these two persons than of their brother, in the old deeds that I consulted at Cherbourg.

Nicolet has left no descendants of his name in Canada. His widow married again at Quebec in 1646 a man named Martin. She had given him but one daughter, and she married Jean Baptiste le Gardeur de Repentigny; several of their descendants occupy prominent places in the history of Canada. Jean Nicolet indeed was somewhat forgotten for

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1 C. W. Butterfield, loc. cit.—H. J.

2 Ever since the beginning of the colony there have been certain ones in Canada bearing the name of Le Gardeur, distinguished from one another by a manorial name added to their patronymic. Did these belong to the family Le Gardeur de Croisilles who lived at Billevois (canon of Saint Pierre Eglise)? There is every reason to believe so.—H. J.
a time. The death of Champlain, as I said, caused all the long journeys of the kind which he had accomplished to be abandoned, and later when those expeditions were resumed, attention was bestowed only upon those who had made them and their forerunner was no longer remembered. But this injustice has been fully repaired; to-day Jean Nicolet is openly recognized as the one who disclosed the way to the great lakes and the Western territory; neither is it in Canada only that the place due him has been given; the Historical Society of Wisconsin considers him the "Jacques Cartier" of that region. 1

Cherbourg may again claim as her own a man who has shone most brightly in the history of Canada. The chevalier "Louis Hector de Callières," son of "James de Callières seignior of Rochechouart and Saint-Romuald, marshal of the armies of the king and of Madeleine Pottier," daughter of Pottier, seignior of Courcy near Coutances. Biographers place his birth at Cherbourg. At first captain of the regiment of Navarre, then captain of the king's vessels, he was intrusted with several commissions to Canada which did him much honor and procured for him in 1684 the government of Montreal and later in 1699 the general government of all the French settlements in North America. During the entire time that he filled these two offices he was obliged to struggle to the utmost against the English and their allies the Iroquois. He died at Quebec in 1703 in the prime of life, "as much regretted," says Father Charlevoix, "as the most perfect general that this colony had yet had, and the man from whom it had received most important services, devotedly."

1 Benjamin Sulte, Les Interprètes du temps de Champlain.— H. J.

James de Callières (some biographers write "Callières," "Callière"), father of the chevalier, governor of the city and the castle of Cherbourg, may have been born in that city according to the abbé Desmou (Histoire de Cherbourg, manuscript in the city library), and have died there in 1669 or 1672; according to others he was born and died at Torgny. He cultivated belles-lettres and left several works. He was one of the founders of the Academy of Carn. Besides the chevalier Louis Hector, there was another son, François de Callières, seignior of Rochechouart and Gigny, born in 1635; but the
AUTHOR'S NOTE.

October 22, 1637.—Marriage-contract between Jean Nicollet and Marguérite Couillart.1 Present in person honorable Jean Nicollet, Clerk and Interpreter for France, of the Company of New France, son of the late Thomas Nicollet mail-carrier between Cherbourg and Paris and Marguerite Delamer, his father and mother, the said sieur Nicollet now of Quebec,2 district of New France, attended by honorable François Derré, sieur de Gant,3 General Agent for the company, and associated with honorable Ollivier Le Tardif, Nicolas Marsollet, Noël Juchareau, and Pierre de la porte, all of the said Quebec, party of the first part.

And Marguerite Couillart daughter of honorable Guillaume Couillart and Guilmette Hébert her father and mother also of the said Quebec, also attended by honorable Guillaume Hubout, Guillaume Hébert and Marie Rollet, grandmother of the said Marguerite Couillart, her parents and friends, party of the second part.

Which parties have promised and do promise respectively and with mutual consent and of their own free will, to take

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1 The official copy of these marriage articles was very kindly and gratuitously sent me from Quebec without my requesting it, by M. J. Langelier, archivist of the province of Quebec, through the influence of M. B. Sulte.

2 Nicolas lived at Three Rivers, but as there was no notary in that place and as his future wife resided at Quebec this city has been regarded in the deed as the domicile of the husband.—Benj. Sulte.

3 François de Rô (or signed Derré) called "Monsieur Grand" in several letters of that period.—Benj. Sulte.
each other with faith in the Sacrament of Marriage according to the Ecclesiastical forms made whenever it shall please the said parties and at their earliest convenience; and by this deed the said future husband has given and gives to the said future wife for marriage portion the sum of two thousand pounds to be taken from his property real and personal, present and future, and wherever it may be both in old and New France, and from the most accessible [apparans] of his goods in case there shall be no children, issue of their body; and after his death likewise he has given and gives besides, for her prefixed dower in case there be such dower, all and each of the annual revenue from his property, movable and immovable, and from that which may remain after the said sum of two thousand pounds taken as preference legacy by the said future wife in case she survives, wheresoever the said property be situated as was before stated, and provided always that the customary law shall not affect prejudicially the aforesaid prefixed dower to which the said future wife shall be from now on limited. In consideration and in view of this marriage, the said Couillart and Hebert father and mother of the said future wife have bound themselves jointly and severally to give to the said future husband whenever it shall please him the sum of nine hundred pounds by way of advancement, which sum shall be presented to him by the right of inheritance which she may have from the said parents after their death; and in case that the said future wife predecease the said future husband without heirs, issue of their body, he is bound to return such sum of nine hundred pounds to the heirs and assigns of the said future wife who shall be reimbursed by the said Couillart and Hebert as pertains to her condition and according to their power and convenience. And to the fulfillment of this and the foregoing the said parties have respectively bound themselves by the clauses and conditions contained in the present contract under pledge of all and each of their goods real and personal, present and future.

Done in presence of Claude Estienne and Etienne Racine Witnesses residing at Quebec, who have signed the first draught of these presents with the parties, parents and
rmedas aforesaid, the 20th of October, one thousand six hundred, and thirty-seven.

Nicollet (scroll).
Mark of the said Couillart.
Marguerite Couillart.
Guillomette Hubert.
Mark of the said Hubert.
Guillaume Hubert.
Marié Rollet.
Derre (scroll).
Marsolet.
Le Tardif (scroll).
Juchereau (scroll).
De Lafort (scroll) claude Estienne.
Racine (scroll).
Paraphé ne variatur.
Verrier, Vicar-general.
Du Laurent, Clerk.

Indorsed: "Copy conformable to the first draught found in the office of the late J. Guilet, notary for this part of New France now called Province of Quebec, deposited in the archives of this District, compared and collated by us the undersigned, Keepers of the same, and Prothonotaries of the Superior Court at Quebec, the eighteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five. "BURROUGHS & CAMPBELL."
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF JEAN NICOLET.

BY CONSUL WILLSHIRE BUTTERFIELD.

Before giving a list of the different works which, to a greater or less extent, make mention of the first white man who, in 1634, visited the territory now constituting the State of Wisconsin, it is proper to state that some knowledge had been gained of the country. What the extent of this information was, and how it came to the care of civilized men, will be briefly mentioned as preliminary to naming the sources from which material can be drawn concerning John Nicolet, the explorer, to whom reference has just been made.

Early in the seventeenth century, French settlements were scattered along the wooded shores of the river St. Lawrence, in Canada. To the westward of these, upon the Ottawa river, Lake Huron and Georgian bay, were living several Indian nations. Between them and the French settlers, there soon sprang up commercial relations; besides, it was not long before missionaries of the Roman Catholic church began to labor with some of them. Travelers, too, made extended journeys into their country.

These settlers, missionaries and travelers gathered from the savages not only accounts of countries adjacent to their own, but of regions more remote. They heard from them of a great lake beyond Lake Huron, at the outlet of which was a considerable rapid: this vast body of fresh water was Lake Superior. And they also got reports of a much smaller lake called by the Indians who spoke of it, "Winnipegou": this was Winnebago lake. A river ran through this lake—the present Fox river; but the stream was known to the Indians east by the same name as the lake.

As early as 1615, a nation of Indians had been heard of, called the Moscoting. These savages were frequently at
war with the tribes near the head of Georgian bay, and with some farther eastward. Now, the homes of the Mascoutins were upon the Fox river, above Winnebago lake, their territory extending southeastwardly, as far, possibly, as the site of the present city of Chicago, if not beyond. A brief reference to certain individuals of this nation has been preserved ante-dating the year 1634.

A knowledge of the Winnebagoes was early obtained—at least before the year 1632. They were spoken of by the Indians who gave the French an account of them, as the “Winnipegou.” More was learned of this nation than of the Mascoutins. They were known as a people who had originally migrated from the shore of a distant sea; and their name had reference to this fact. The settlers upon the St. Lawrence had, however, very erroneous ideas of the location of these savages. Winnebago lake was supposed to be to the northward of Lake Huron, and the Fox river flowed southward into it; while the Winnebagoes were known to dwell not far from the last-mentioned lake. Lake Michigan and Green bay had not as yet been heard of. Such was the information that the French had gathered of the present Wisconsin, before any part of it had been explored by civilized man; extending, as we have seen, to two of its lakes and one of its rivers; also to two of the savage tribes having their homes and hunting grounds, whole or in part, within its present boundaries.

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