

upper part of it; when this sounds, they pull in their Fish. This Fishery suffices to maintain large Villages; they also gather wild rice and acorns; accordingly the Peoples of the Bay can live in the utmost comfort.—La Potherie's *Amér. Septentrionale*, pp. 69–81.

1653–55: FIRST IROQUOIS RAID INTO WISCONSIN.

[From Nicolas Perrot's *Mémoire sur les mœurs, coutumes et religion des Sauvages de l'Amérique Septentrionale*: written about 1715–18;¹ published at Paris, 1864, with annotations by Rev. Jules Tailhan, S. J.]

This defeat spread terror among the Outaouas [Ottawas] and their allies, who were at Sankinon, at Thunder Bay, and at Manitoaletz and Michillimakinak. They went to dwell together among the Hurons, on the island which we call Huron Island.² The Irroquois remained at peace with another vil-

¹Nicolas Perrot was one of the most noted French voyageurs in the Northwest; see accounts of his life and achievements in Tailhan's notes on his *Mémoire*, and in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, v. pp. 110–112. In regard to his taking possession of the Upper Mississippi, *Id.*, x, 359–362, and xi, 35, 36; and, on the ostensorium presented by him to the De Pere mission, *Id.*, viii, pp. 129–206, and *Jes. Relations*, lxi, p. 347. For locations of forts erected by him in Wisconsin, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, pp. 59–63, 299–301, 328–333, 358, 364–372, 504–506.—Ed.

²Tailhan thinks (*Perrot*, p. 214) that the island here mentioned was that now known as Washington Island, at the entrance of Green Bay—later, the abode of the Pottawattomies. The only application of the name Huron Islands on early maps, however, is to the group still known by that name near the south shore of Lake Superior; they lie to the north of Marquette county, Mich. The name Sankinon is but a variant of Saginaw (the large bay in the western shore of Lake Huron), and Manitoaletz of Manitoulin (the islands at the entrance to Georgian Bay). Sakinan (Sankinon) is said by Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan (*N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, ix, p. 293, *note*) to mean, in Algonkin, "the country of the Sakis." Cf. Nouvel's account of the "Saki country," in *Jes. Relations*, lx, pp. 219–221; apparently it was on the Tittibawassee river, in Midland and Saginaw counties, Mich. "This defeat" refers to the ruin of the Huron confederacy by the Iroquois in 1650–51; for detailed accounts thereof, see *Jes. Relations*, vols. xxxiii–xxxvi.—Ed.

lage, established at Detroit, of savages who were called "Neutral Hurons," because they did not embrace the interests of their allies, but maintained an attitude of neutrality. The Irroquois, however, compelled these people to abandon Detroit and settle in the Irroquois country. Thus they augmented their own strength, not only by the many children whom they took captive, but by the great number of Neutral Hurons whom they carried to their own country; and it was at that time that they made so many raids against the Algonkins that the latter were compelled to seek shelter among the French colonists. The Nipissings made a stand in their villages during a few years; but they were finally obliged to flee far northward to Alimibegon [Nepigon]; and the savages who had been neighbors to the Hurons fled, with those along the Outaoua River, to Three Rivers.

The Irroquois, elated by the advantage which they had gained over their enemies in thus compelling them to take flight, and finding no other bones to gnaw, made several attacks upon the Algonkins and even upon the French, taking several captives who were afterward restored. These hostilities were succeeded by more than one treaty of peace, which proved to be of short duration. The early relations of these events describe them quite fully; accordingly I do not expatiate upon them here, but limit myself to an account of only such things as they have omitted, and which I have learned from the lips of the old men among the Outaoua tribes.

The following year [1653?], the Irroquois sent another expedition, which counted 800 men, to attack the Outaouas; but those tribes, feeling sure that the enemy had ascertained the place where they had established themselves, and would certainly make another attack against them, had taken the precaution to send out one of their scouting parties, who went as far as the former country of the Hurons, from which they had been driven. These men descried the Irroquois party who were marching against them, and hastened back to carry the news of this incursion to their own people. Those tribes, who were dwelling on Huron Island, immediately abandoned that place

and retreated to Méchingan,¹ where they constructed a fort, resolving to await there the enemy. The Irroquois came to that region, but were unable to accomplish anything for two years. They made persistent efforts to succeed, and put in the field a little army, as it were, intending to destroy the villages of that new settlement, at which a considerable extent of land had been already cleared. But the Outaouas had time enough to harvest their grain before the arrival of the enemy; for they were always careful to keep scouts on the watch, in order not to be taken by surprise, and the scouts saw the enemy in time. The Irroquois finally arrived one morning before the fort, which appeared to them impregnable. In their army were many Hurons who were the offspring of the people whom they had come to attack—men whose mothers had escaped from the ruin of their tribe when the Irroquois had invaded their former country. The enemy had at the time not much food, because they found very little game on the route which they had followed. Deliberations were held, and propositions for a treaty of peace were made. One of these was that the Hurons who were in the Irroquois army should be given up, which was granted. In order to settle upon the terms of the treaty, it was agreed that six of their chiefs should enter the fort of the Hurons, and that the latter should, in exchange, give six of their men as hostages. A treaty of peace was accordingly made and concluded between them. The Outaouas and Hurons made presents of food to the Irroquois, and also traded with them for blankets and porcelain collars.¹ The latter remained in camp for several days to rest their warriors, but when they entered the fort only a few at a time were admitted, and these were drawn by the Outaouas over the palisades by ropes.

The Outaouas sent word to the Irroquois army before their departure that they wished to present to each of their men a loaf of corn-bread; but they prepared a poison to mix with the bread.

¹ By Mechingan (Michigan), Perrot probably means the mainland northwest of Lake Michigan.—Ed.

² "Porcelain" is simply the Canadian-French term for the shell, glass, or porcelain beads used as money and ornaments by the Indians—the "wampum" of English writers.—Ed.

When the loaves were baked, they were sent to the Irroquois; but a Huron woman who had an Irroquois husband knew the secret, and warned her son not to eat any of the bread, because it had been poisoned. The son immediately warned the Irroquois; they threw the bread to their dogs, who died after eating it. They needed no more to assure them of the conspiracy against them, and determined to go away without provisions. They concluded to divide their forces into two parties; one of these embarked from that place, and were defeated by the Saulteurs, Missisakis, and people of the Otter tribe (who are called in their own tongue Mikikoïet), but few of the Irroquois escaping. The main force pushed farther on, and soon found themselves among the buffaloes. If the Outaouas had been as courageous as the Hurons, and had pursued the enemy, they could without doubt have defeated them, considering their slender supply of food. But the Irroquois, when they had secured abundance of provisions, steadily advanced until they encountered a small Illinoët village; they killed the women and children therein, for the men fled toward their own people, who were not very far from that place.¹ The Illinoëts immediately assembled their forces, and hastened after the Irroquois, who had no suspicion of an enemy; attacking them after nightfall, the Illinoëts gained the advantage and slew many of them. Other Illinoët villages, who were hunting in that vicinity, having learned what had occurred, hastened to find their tribesmen, who undertook to deal a blow at the Irroquois. Assembling their warriors, they made a hasty march, surprised the enemy, and utterly defeated them in battle; for there were very few of the Irroquois who returned to their own villages. This was the first acquaintance of the Illinoëts with the Irroquois; it proved baneful to them, but they have well avenged themselves for it.—Perrot's *Mémoire*, pp. 80-83.

¹ Missisakis: an earlier form of Missisaguas—an Algonquian tribe resident on the north shore of Lake Huron, and later forming villages in the peninsula between that lake and Lakes Erie and Ontario. Mikikouets: probably the same as the Algonquian Nikikouets, occasionally mentioned in the *Jesuit Relations*; located near the Missisaguas. Illinoëts: the Illinois tribes.—Ed.