

tianize the Indian races; and while thus engaged, the reports of their journeyings transmitted to the Superior of the Order at Quebec, and which were published in France, directed attention to the resources of New France, of which Wisconsin formed a part. Since which time, great changes have taken place; France lost her power, and it was given to England, which nation in due time relinquished it to the United States. Our State has been under the jurisdiction of Virginia, attached to the Northwest Territory, the States of Indiana and Michigan; and the cities of Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, from being frontier towns, and in the midst of an Indian country, are thriving and growing places of business, the former with a population (1870) of 4,661, and including Fort Howard 6,082, and the latter of 2,700.

GREEN BAY.

1639 It is now generally conceded by all writers on early American history, that the first reliable information we have of the topography and the people residing in the vicinity of Green Bay was derived from the Sieur *Jean Nicolle*.

This enterprising explorer came to Canada in 1631. After acquiring a knowledge of the Algonquin tongue, he was sent to make a treaty of peace with the Iroquois, in which he was successful. He was for eight or nine years with the Nipissings, and became almost an Indian himself, though a zealous Catholic. After the restoration of Canada to the French, he was made interpreter and commissary of the colony, which office he filled till about 1639, when he was sent to Green Bay, where he met some four or five thousand men, and concluded a peace with them. In this year he ascended Fox river to the portage, and embarked on a river flowing west (the Wisconsin), and penetrated further in those unknown countries than any previous discoverer. Father *Vincent* says that had he sailed three days more on a great river which flows from the Lake, (Green Bay) he would have found the sea. It is generally presumed that he mistook for the sea, the Indian words "Great Water," applied to the Mississippi.

This enterprising adventurer while on a benevolent mission to rescue a poor Abenaki from the Algonquins lost his life by the capsizing of his boat, Oct. 31, 1642. The names and localities as well as the races and languages of the Wisconsin tribes were learned by him from actual observation; and this information was the

basis on which the subsequent efforts of the Jesuit Fathers were put forth.

1639-1642. We find no accounts of explorations in this section in this interval of time. The nations in this locality were generally known as the "Puanis" or "Stinkards"—not from any peculiar odor peculiar to them, but because they resided at the shores of a sea far distant to the West, the waters of which being salt they were called "the people of the stinking water." Father *Marquette* says: "This Bay bears a name which has not so bad a meaning in the Indian language, for they call it rather Salt Bay than Fetid Bay, although among them it is almost the same, and this is the name they give to the sea. This induced us to make very exact researches to discover whether there were not in these parts some salt springs, but we could not find any." In 1642 the Iroquois war broke out in all its fury, which proved fatal to all efforts to Christianize these tribes, though the Jesuits were anxious to establish missions among them. Mr. Bancroft remarks, "The French were looking towards the homes of the Sioux in the Valley of the Mississippi five years before the New England Eliot had addressed the tribes of Indians that dwelt within six miles of Boston harbor."

1654. Father *Le Mercier* writes to his "Superior" at Quebec "that at the islands of the lake of the people of the sea, known as 'Stinkards,' there are many tribes whose language closely resembles the Algonquin, and that they are only nine days journey from the Great Lake; and that if any person would send thirty Frenchmen into that country, not only would they gain many souls to God, but would receive a profit above the expenses incurred, because the finest peltries come in from those quarters."

1655. Rev. *Jean de Quens* writes "That of the nations of the sea known as the Stinkards, one of them numbers 60 villages, another 40, and another 30. He was told that 300 men met at one assembly for the purpose of making a treaty of peace; that these nations are constantly making war on the more distant nations."

Fifty canoes of these Indians visited Quebec this year, and 30 Frenchmen returned with them to obtain peltries. Two priests also accompanied them.

1656-1669. We find no record of the Jesuit Fathers in this interval, at the "Baye," although the mission at Keweenaw, on Lake Superior, was founded. In the year 1669 it was determined to make an effort to establish a mission at Green Bay, and on the 3d of November of this year Father *Claudius Allouez* left Sault St. Marie for this purpose with two French companions and two canoes of