

of Magdalene Island, called La Pointe. The traders from Canada accompanied the garrison, or soon followed them: the Chippewas having probably preceded them a short time. But there was no increase of the whites, other than traders, missionaries, and government officials, until since the extinction of the Indian title to the country in 1842: nor has it greatly enlarged since that period.

The third place visited and settled by white men, in what is now Wisconsin, is Prairie du Chien. But at what time the first visit or permanent settlement was made, is in the dark, and rather uncertain. Marquette and Joliet descended the Wisconsin river into the Mississippi, June 17, 1673. But as they sailed *down* the river, and this Prairie lying *above* the junction, and being entirely hid from view at the mouth of the Wisconsin by the timber on the bottoms, I think it extremely doubtful whether they ascended the Mississippi to this point, and such a landing not being mentioned by them, it is not probable that they did so. Furthermore, as this Prairie was then claimed by the Sioux, whose villages were over one hundred miles above, there could have been no Indians at the place, unless by accident, to call their attention to it.

In 1680, seven years later, Hennepin ascended the Mississippi, a prisoner to the Sioux. He could hardly have passed this beautiful place without noticing and stopping at it: nor is it at all probable that his captors, who were the owners of the soil, would have passed it unnoticed. But as he makes no mention of it, it is not probable that any trader or Indian village occupied the place at that date.

But, as he was released from captivity the next year, 1681, through the interposition of a trader, and returned to Quebec by the way of the Wisconsin River, it is probable that the trader lived at Prairie du Chien. I should infer, from the circumstances, that the trader could not have been there when Hennepin ascended the river, or he would have procured his release at that time, and sent him home. This was probably