

jamin Sulte, of Ottawa, that Nicolet started from Three Rivers on a Western voyage in July, 1634, and returned the year following. But it is natural to ask, "May not this adventurer have made later voyages, even as he had made others before?"

Sulte's answer is: "By no means. The voyage of 1634-35 was his last. In 1635 Nicolet became interpreter and fur-factor for the French company—called the 'Hundred Associates.' Their accounts and other papers show that he was stationed at their post of Three Rivers, midway between Montreal and Quebec, and that he remained there till 1642, when, while on a business journey to the latter city, he was accidentally drowned." Thus Sulte proves an *alibi* for Nicolet. Until then, some one can show Nicolet to have had divine ubiquity—or as mediævals believed of angels and devils, *du-biquity*, the power of being in two places at once—he must be admitted to have discovered Wisconsin some five years before white men have been supposed to have shown themselves there. Doubtless it will add a cubit to the stature of every Badger to have five years thus added to the annals of his commonwealth.

Possibly it may turn out that they have still more reason to exult. Sulte's researches have made it out that Nicolet was domesticated as one of themselves among the Indians as early as 1618, at first on the Ottawa, half way to Lake Huron, and after two years in tribes bordering on that lake itself.

The Badger State was but one step farther, and was a thoroughfare for a prehistoric commerce in Mexican shells, etc., etc.

Since the impossible always happens, why may it not yet be demonstrated that Nicolet had explored Wisconsin even earlier than the year 1630—that is, before the settlement of Boston itself? Wisconsinians would have these five years added to their annals as gladly as any ancient maiden would have them subtracted from hers.

Sulte describes Nicolet as meeting the Wisconsin tribes in a council of four thousand warriors who feasted on six score of beavers. He appeared before them in a robe of state, adorned with figures of flowers and birds. Approaching with a pistol in each hand, he fired both at once. The astonished natives hence