

as they traversed broad regions, and settled among the savages of the country.

Before the Pilgrim fathers had opened a college in New England, the Jesuits had founded one at Quebec, and endowed it with an ample fortune. While Massachusetts was laying the basis of the Harvard University, and before she had adopted any system of public schools, Father Nicolet visited Green Bay in this State, observed closely the character of the inhabitants, and bore back to Canada and France an account of his treaty with four or five thousand Indians, assembled on the Fox River. He was followed by heroic and self-denying disciples of Loyola, such as Mesnard, Allouez and Marquette, who explored, two hundred years ago, the southern and the western shores of Lakes Superior and Michigan, discovered our rivers and called them by their euphonious Indian names. Next came adventurers and traders, with no religious zeal, but in quest of fame and riches; and they by scores and by hundreds traveled over the State and the sections adjacent.

At La Pointe, on Lake Superior, the cross was erected by Mesnard, in 1660; but a permanent missionary station was never formed, though Allouez labored there afterwards four years among the Chippewas. It became subsequently a French trading post. At Green Bay, Allouez opened, in 1669, his chapel and mission house to the natives for instruction. This became the most important station west of Lake Michigan—being the center of all operations in this State and farther South. Joliet, an envoy of France, and Marquette, the missionary, stopped at this place, in 1673, while on their voyage of discovering the Upper Mississippi. La Salle was here, in 1681, to traffic for some materials to aid him in descending the Mississippi River, when he connected its northern discovery with its southern by De Soto, and planted the arms of France at its mouth, and named the whole valley of the Mississippi Louisiana. Here trading expeditions were sent out in bark canoes in every direction; and here vessels were loaded, over a century ago, with valuable furs for the foreign market. Here an influence was exerted over the tribes of the State,