

that Nicolet did not go down to Quebec in 1633, he could have gone; and he certainly went there in the month of June, 1634, because he started from that place on the 2d of July with Father Brébeuf to proceed to the West.

Now, as I have already said, he had every right to be regarded as an interpreter from at least 1622. He may have been placed as such on the pay list in 1627; but having, as I presume, rendered very little service to the Hundred Associates between 1628 and 1633, it is likely that his employ as interpreter in full pay only dated in reality from the summer of 1632. So soon as he reached Quebec with the Indians of his "agency," either in 1633 or 1634, he was nothing else, I am sure, but an interpreter of the company, paid by them, and receiving his orders from them, through Champlain, their representative.

Why not say therefore, with the *Relation*, that he was an interpreter of the Hundred Associates when he was sent to explore Wisconsin? That, in my estimation, would be quite correct.

That Nicolet was interpreter at Three Rivers is not stated; and he could not have been because the fort at that place was not yet built, and the trade of 1632 and 1633 which took place partly at St. Croix, and partly at Quebec and Three Rivers, must have been attended by the various interpreters already mentioned in these notes, whilst nothing can explain how Champlain would have employed Nicolet at that period of his life on the St. Lawrence, after having prepared him with so great pains to carry on the business in the West.

It happened that when Father Brébeuf and Nicolet left Quebec for the West on the 2d of July, 1634, an expedition had sailed from there on the 1st of that month to go to Three Rivers to establish a fort. On the 4th, they were all arrived at that latter place; and the first pickets were planted under the eye of Nicolet, who immediately after renewed his journey to the West, in company with the Hurons who had been trading at Three Rivers that year; for they were determined not to go any farther in the direction of Quebec, and that is the reason why Champlain abandoned St. Croix, and established Three Rivers. In 1635, trade was carried on with the Hurons at Three Rivers between the 15th and the