

\* CE SOLEIL A ESTE DONNÉ PAR MR. NICOLAS PERROT A LA MISSION

DE ST. FRANÇOIS XAVIER EN LA BAYE DES PUANTS. + 1686

That is in English: "This *solary* was presented by Mr. Nicolas Perrot to the mission of St. Francis Xavier, at Green Bay, in the year 1686." For the reason of the name *Puans*, or, in Perrot's orthography, *Pvants*, being given to the Indians at Green Bay, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vol. vii, p. 126.

A lawyer, full of skeptical suggestions, like the Satanic toad squatting at the ear of Eve, whispers that this inscription might be cut in our times as easily as two centuries ago. So, too, it were as easy to write his legal documents, if forged, as if genuine; yet he believes in them.

The ostensorium was sent to me by Rev. F. X. Krautbauer, the Bishop of Green Bay. The inscription on it was printed by Shea, in his *History of Catholic Missions* in 1854, who cites for his authority McCabe's *Gazetteer of Wisconsin*, of which only fragments were published in a Milwaukee paper with which he was connected. But the shrine on which it is engraved had been turned up fifty-two years before, at Green Bay, in 1802. Such is the Catholic tradition which we have no reason to distrust.

Regarding Perrot, the donor of the ostensory, little was known when it was unearthed. But it is now ascertained that he was traversing the Northwest in 1663, and for a quarter of a century thereafter. He was the earliest and ablest of those French agents sent west of Lake Michigan to gather up fragments of nations scattered by the Iroquois, and confederate them under French leadership against those inveterate foes of France. His adventures, largely in Wisconsin, he wrote out, not for publication, but for the information of Canadian governors. These memoirs, laid up in Parisian archives, were never printed till 1864, and remain