

Bishop of Green Bay, who keeps it in his vault. Its weight is a trifle over twenty ounces, and the *repoussé* work, rayonnant and flamboyant, attests that it must have been manufactured in France itself—just as the rudeness of the lettering bears witness of a Green Bay provincial goldsmith. An odd bit of proof has fallen in my way that the soleil is at least seven years older than 1686, the date of its consecration to the mission. It is this. In 1679, Louis XIV issued a decree that every soleil should have a mark and countermark stamped on its oval base. The soleil now before me bears no such stamp. Either therefore it is older than 1679, or through pious fraud it evaded the royal order. The base was broken from the standard by the pickaxe, but the fracture has been well repaired.

There are four memorials older than the ostensorium of Perrot, proving the presence of white men in Wisconsin,—but they are all treasured far beyond its borders, and I fear will be for a long time. One is the original manuscript of Marquette, detailing his journey across Wisconsin and down the Mississippi, which was written at Green Bay in the winter of 1673–74. This writing is in the College of St. Mary at Montreal. The second memorial is Jolliet's notes on the same journey, written on his return to France in 1674, and preserved in the seminary of St. Sulpice at Paris. The other two are maps—both preserved in Parisian archives, one is of Lake Superior, drawn up in 1671—the other dating from 1679, "*shows the Messipi from 49° to 42°, where the Misconsing comes in,*" according to an inscription upon it.

Fragments of French arms—and other metallic, glass, or earthen articles, doubtless exist in the Northwest, that are older than the sacred silver of Perrot. But none known to me can be proved of so great antiquity, for none of them bear dates that are tell-tales of their age. In Ottawa, I saw a bronze cross picked up at the foot of Starved Rock, and called Marquette's. But it bears no date. There is another of silver that was found at Green Bay, and presented long ago to our State Historical Society. But how old it is no one knows, or can know, as it has no inscription or mark of any kind to indicate its age.

Some other dated votive offering to the La Pointe or Green