

Bay missions, even before 1686, may possibly come to light. But aside from such an improbable windfall, it seems impossible that any antiquarian discovery this side of the prehistoric period, either in Wisconsin, or, indeed, out of it, in all the length and breadth of the Mississippi Valley, can ever be made that shall rival as a work of art—as a religious relic, and, above all, as a historical memorial, the silver ostensorium of Nicolas Perrot.

With good reason, then, has Wisconsin fostered her Historical Society, till it is pre-eminent throughout the West. It had the most precious memorials to enshrine.

The volume by Perrot which I have mentioned, treated of the manners, customs, and religion of the aborigines in our north-western lake region, intermingled with much of personal narrative. Its exact title is, *Memoire sur les Mœurs, coutumes et religion des Sauvages de l'Amerique Septentrionale* (Paris, 1864, 8vo.). From this work and La Potherie, *L'Amerique Septentrionale* (Paris, 1703), you may glean the personal history of Nicolas Perrot, and what is more, facts regarding Wisconsin in the seventeenth century, in greater abundance than from all other sources. According to these authorities, as early as 1661, Perrot reports some Frenchmen already among wandering Sauteurs or Chippewas, in or near the present boundaries of Wisconsin. In 1665, he describes his visit to the Outagamis. In May, 1667, he was at Green Bay. In 1669, with four French followers, he was an auxiliary of the Hurons. In 1670, we find him at Green Bay, embarking for the east in a fur fleet of thirty canoes. In 1671, he led representatives of eleven tribes, mostly from the territory of Wisconsin to Mackinaw, and served as their interpreter, while they swore friendship to each other and allegiance to the king of France.

In the spring of 1685, Perrot arrived at Green Bay, as governor of the country, embracing the whole Northwest, like Cass, in 1820. He was well known to the Indians, and of great influence. He came just in time to be a mediator between the Ottawas and the Outagamies, who were then beginning an internecine struggle. His negotiation was much facilitated by his rescuing a female captive of distinction from one of these parties, and restoring her to her friends belong-