

were made to Wisconsin, is involved in some doubt. It may have been by Nicolet in 1634; but it is well authenticated that fur-traders were temporarily at Green Bay as early as 1654 to 1659; and that in 1665 a Roman Catholic priest established a mission at Chegoimegon. But there is no authentic account of any permanent settlement within the State until the founding of the mission of St. Francis Xavier at Des Pères in 1669, and the establishment, two years later, of the fortified post at Green Bay, called St. Francis.

The white inhabitants gradually, but very slowly, increased during the next fifty years; but as all who were not engaged in missionary labor were connected with the fur-trade, and furnished the Indians in exchange for their furs and peltries with such articles as contributed to the gratification of their tastes and to their success in hunting, fishing and trapping, the missionaries and traders were permitted to remain without molestation.

But at length this tranquillity was to be disturbed. In 1712 the Outagamies or Foxes attempted the destruction of the post of Detroit. They were repulsed and compelled to surrender at discretion. These reverses, and the desperate fight which ensued near Lake St. Clair, materially affected their ability to annoy the French, and to war with their savage enemies; but yet added fresh and implacable inspiration to the savage spirit of hate and revenge, which prompted them to resort to another locality for its gratification.

They collected their dispersed bands on the Fox River, where they robbed and butchered all travelers on this great highway of nature from the lakes to the Mississippi. The Sauks were their old and natural allies, and the Sioux were induced to openly join them, while many of the Iroquois were allied to them clandestinely. Indeed the danger of a general alliance among the savages against the whites appeared threatening.

This threatened danger induced the French governor of Canada, whose dominion and protection then extended over the whole valley of the Mississippi and the Great Lakes, to propose a union of the friendly tribes with the French, in a war of extermination against the common enemy, to which these tribes readily