

## Romantic Career of Radisson

Peter d'Esprit, sieur Radisson, was born at St. Malo, and when young, in 1651, arrived in Canada. The next year, while on an expedition, he was captured by the Mohawks, and reached Fort Orange, now Albany, where for a time he acted as interpreter. He went to Manhattan, now New York city, and from thence sailed, and, in January, 1654, arrived at Amsterdam. In a few months he returned to Canada, and in 1657 was among the Onondagas, but in the spring of 1658 returned to Three Rivers, Canada. Groseilliers and his brother-in-law, Radisson, in 1658, determined to explore the region of the Great Lakes. Radisson, in his journal, writes: "As soon as the resolution was made, many undertake the voyage; for where is lucre, there are enough people to be had."

In the middle of June, with twenty-nine Frenchmen and six Indians, they left Three Rivers, and by way of the Ottawa River reached Lake Huron.<sup>1</sup> Thence they visited Manitoulin Island, where the Hurons had a village. Passing through the straits of Mackinaw to Lake Michigan, they reached Green Bay, and after visiting the Standing Hair tribe, so called because they kept their hair brushed up, they went to the Poutautemick village. During the winter they became acquainted with the Escotecke or Maskoutens, and learned about the Sioux and Christinos.

In the spring of 1659, Radisson proposed that the Hurons of their party should visit the refugees of their tribe toward the sources of the Wisconsin and Black rivers. In October, 1659, a visit was made to the Sault of Lake Superior, to the Indians whom Radisson calls Pauvestigouce. The Algonquins called these Pawitagouek, People of the Falls. Here the French passed the winter; and, in the spring of 1660, returned to the Green Bay region, where Radisson mentions he went up a great river which branched, one turning west and the other south toward Mexico. It is possible he may have followed the Wisconsin as far as the Mississippi River. In August, 1660, Radisson and Groseilliers returned to Quebec.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Radisson's *Journal*.

<sup>2</sup> *Journal des Jésuites*, par M. M. les Abbes Laverdiere et Casgrain, Quebec, 1771.