

cause there was a fort *below* the mouth of the Wisconsin, there must necessarily be one *above* it, at Prairie du Chien.

Reference is made in Prof. Butler's article to the maps of Franquelin, D'Anville, Bellin, and Jefferys, and to the atlas of Coven and Mortier, as showing, near the mouth of the Wisconsin, Fort St. Nicholas. Granted: but they do not all show a fort *below* the mouth of the Wisconsin. Franquelin's and D'Anville's show it *above* and on the east side of the Mississippi. These two maps proved too much for the professor; and, if they were to be relied on, they would prove too much for me. Prof. Butler, not knowing how to meet the difficulty, totally ignores it. But that close observer of all things appertaining to Western history—Dr. Draper—knowing what the real issue is, and being determined to stick to it, calls the attention of the reader to the fact that, on the maps of Franquelin and D'Anville, a French fort—"Fort St. Nicholas"—is marked immediately *above* the mouth of the Wisconsin and east of the Mississippi, just where Prairie du Chien is now situated. Therefore, there is but one thing for me to do: I must discredit these maps as to the location of the fort, or I "lose my case." The important question then is, were these map-makers correct? I say no; and so says Dr. Butler; yet he asks, as to Franquelin, "why should we reject his testimony?" After going over a great deal of ground, he answers the question by proving Fort St. Nicholas to have been on the Mississippi, *below* the Wisconsin. I would say then to my critic: "Hold the French fort," but continue to "hold it" *outside* of Crawford County, Wisconsin.

Dr. Draper says (*ante*, page 63, note 2) that "It [Fort St. Nicholas] had, very likely, but a brief existence." Exactly that view I have heretofore held; but Perrot's "Minute of Taking Possession of the country on the Upper Mississippi," shows conclusively, as I now discover, that it was occupied as late as 1689—four years after its erection. The commander of its garrison, at that date was Bois-Guillot. Supposing, then, that Fort St. Nicholas had been abandoned, and knowing that that Frenchman had command of "the French in the neighborhood of the Wisconsin, on the Mis-