

power to send him there in search for beaver, in the pursuance of the authority which he has to grant permits. But if they go by way of the Ouisconsing, where for the present the chase of the buffalo is carried on, and where I have commenced an establishment, they will ruin the trade, of which alone I am laying the foundation, on account of the great number of buffaloes¹ which are taken there every year, almost beyond belief."²

La Salle further states in the same letter: "Six weeks afterward, all having returned to the Ouisconsing with the Nadouesious on a hunt, the R. P. Louis Hennepin, and the Picard, resolved to go to the mouth of the river, where I had promised to send messages, as I had done by six men, whom the Jesuits deceived, telling them that R. P. Louis and his fellow travelers had been slain. They allowed them to go there alone." Then La Salle speaks of their being pillaged, because of jealousy, "as they [the Indians] were from different villages, and but few from that where the Frenchmen were to go; they did it in order to secure their portion of the merchandise, of which they feared they would receive none if they once entered the village where the Frenchmen were to go."³

It would seem highly probable, that La Salle's establishment at the Wisconsin, was at the mouth of the river, where he was so anxious to send messages, no doubt to persons connected with his "establishment," and where Hennepin and his fellow travelers were destined, and it would appear also, that there was an Indian village there at that early period. As the locality of Prairie du Chien was confessedly

¹ Gov. D'Iberville, of Louisiana, suggested, in 1702, that the great Sioux nation be removed to the Missouri country, so as to be more convenient for securing their trade; that, in four or five years, a commerce could be established with them of sixty or eighty thousand buffalo skins. See Neill's *Minnesota*, pp. 171, 172.

² Margry's *Découvertes des Français dans l'Amerique*, ii, p. 254; Neill's *Notes on Early Wisconsin Explorations*, etc., in this volume; and Winchell's *Historical Sketch of Explorations and Surveys in Minnesota*, 1883, p. 12.

³ Margry ii, pp. 257, 258; Winchell's *Historical Sketch*, p. 14.