

America, prefixed to his work on the *Natural and Civil History of the French Dominion of North America*, 1760, we find that he placed the legend "Ouisconsin River" on the upper side of the stream at its mouth, and thus filling the space, placed the other legend below—"Fort St. Nicholas destroyed;" but without any indication or mark of the locality of the fort itself. In the text of his work, Jefferys makes no reference whatever to Fort St. Nicholas. So we need not wonder that David Mills, in the first edition of his *Report on the Ontario Boundaries*, 1873, in reproducing Jefferys' map, and finding the old fort unlocated, placed it athwart the Wisconsin River.

But even admitting that Jefferys had really placed Fort St. Nicholas below the mouth of the Wisconsin, he would stand solitary and alone among all those early authorities, and in opposition to all the earlier and more distinguished geographers of the country. Surely, their combined evidence, had such a condition existed, ought far to outweigh his; besides, in their case, the locality of Prairie du Chien is a fitting one, while no suitable spot for such an establishment is found below the mouth for some considerable distance. Had there really been any conflict of statement, those early French cartographers had far better means of procuring correct information about the early French settlements in the West, than an English geographer at a much later period—seventy odd years after Franquelin's time. After all, there is no reliable evidence that Jefferys differed from them.¹

As Franquelin was the first geographer to give the location and record the name of Fort St. Nicholas, his credibility as a writer may very properly be considered. He was the hydrographer of the king of France, under the patron-

¹ In Neill's first edition of his *History of Minnesota*, p. 138, he fell into two errors in stating that Fort St. Nicholas was established in 1683, before Perrot had yet visited the country, and that it was located below the mouth of the Wisconsin, misled as to location, by an erroneous reprint of Jefferys' map, which mistakes he corrected in later editions of his work. Mills, following Dr. Neill's original statement, committed the same errors in his *Ontario Boundaries*, revised edition, 1877, pp. 14, 15.