

age of the government, residing at Quebec—the place of all others, at that period, where he could best meet and interview returning officers, traders, missionaries and explorers from the Great West. Gov. De la Barre, of Canada, commended the first map of Franquelin, not so full as the subsequent one, for the “perfect knowledge” of the region of New France it represented; that he was “as skillful as any in France,” and that he was then at work on “a very correct map of the country”—that of 1688, reproduced from tracings of the original in Neill’s revised edition of his *History of Minnesota*.

Parkman declares it “a great map—the most remarkable of all the early maps of the interior of North America;” and that “La Salle and others of his party undoubtedly supplied the young engineer with materials.” Dr. Neill, the able historian of Minnesota, pronounces it “the most complete of the unpublished maps in the French archives,” and “an advance on geographical accuracy;” and gives a copy of the tracing of it in his *History of Minnesota*.

Judge C. C. Baldwin, president of the Western Reserve and Northern Ohio Historical Society, and author of an interesting monograph on the *Early Maps of Ohio and the West*, writes: “The Franquelin of 1688, is a wonderful map; and I think so afresh every time I look at it. It seems to me, that Franquelin, by his position, ability, care and learning, is the very best authority as to the locality of Fort St. Nicholas.” Unstinted praise, on every hand, is accorded to this masterpiece of Northwestern cartology made by Franquelin two centuries ago.

Mr. Butterfield supplied or inspired an article in the *Madison Democrat*, of December 3, 1885, animadverting on Dr. Butler’s paper on a French fort at or near Prairie du Chien, and the brief note I appended to it; declaring that these “statements are likely to be all traced back to the same source—La Potherie—who wrote without having seen the country, and without sufficient knowledge of it.”

In Mr. Butterfield’s article, preceding this paper, he seems to have abandoned this untenable position—untenable, at least, so far as my statements are concerned; and now takes