

a juster view of the situation. He says: "If the maps of Franquelin and D'Anville were to be relied on, they prove too much" for him; for they locate Fort St. Nicholas on the east side of the Mississippi, and above the mouth of the Wisconsin. "I must," says Mr. Butterfield, "discredit these maps or lose my case." And so he deliberately goes to work to discredit them, and in a very unique way—at least he thus disposes of Franquelin's map: "Franquelin put his little mark [indicating the locality of Fort St. Nicholas] above the mouth of that river [the Wisconsin], when he should have put it below." No authority is given for this bold statement—a statement which applies with equal force to the other worthy cartographers, who have also placed their "little mark" above the mouth of the Wisconsin, namely: D'Anville, Bellin, Coven, and Mortier, and the author of the *Atlas Moderne*, of 1762. Here, then, we have a mere modern supposition, on the one side, and Franquelin, backed by Gov. La Barre, and several notable geographers, on the other.

"There are physical reasons," says Mr. Butterfield, "why Fort St. Nicholas was not above the Wisconsin;" because, he says, that the prairie which extends up from that stream nearly eight miles, is "sometimes overflowed," and "in no place, is it but little if any above high water mark." To say nothing of the earlier forts which by many are believed to have been located at Prairie du Chien, we need only to advert to the recognized fact, that during the War of 1812-15, the Americans and British in turn maintained a fort there, which our Government re-established in 1816, occupying it continuously, with only a single year's intermission, till 1856—thus showing that a fort did find a foothold there for forty years, until there no longer existed any occasion for one. Mr. Butterfield's *History of Crawford County* may be cited as fully substantiating this statement.

But these "physical reasons" apply with much more force to the region below the mouth of the Wisconsin. In the treaty of 1804 between the Sauks and Foxes and the United States, those tribes conceded to our government the right to establish a military post "at or near the mouth of the Ouisconsin," and "as the land on the lower side of the