

and a close antiquarian observer, writes: "The locality of the old French fort at this place is on the first high ground above Wyalusing suitable for such an establishment, and is the first dry prairie that could be reached by boat above that place. The 'Pig's Eye' affords an ample channel from the Mississippi to the main land of sufficient width and depth for the largest river boats, and is the only channel of the kind above Wyalusing, which is about six miles below. Another reason why this place presented a strong claim as a suitable location for a trading-post was, that it was a favorite resort for the Indians, whose relics are to this day found scattered all over the surface of this locality."

But after Mr. Butterfield has, as one would suppose, satisfactorily corrected Franquelin, by venturing to remove the "little mark" from above the mouth of the Wisconsin, to some point below, then he seems dissatisfied with his strange historical and geographical feat, or, perhaps, encouraged by the easiness of the removal—then pushes the "little mark" to a point on the western bank of the Mississippi, twenty French leagues, or forty-eight English miles, as he has it, above the lead mines or Dubuque, and, as he reckons distance, about twelve miles below Prairie du Chien. In fixing this locality for Fort St. Nicholas, strange to say, Mr. Butterfield relies, in part, on La Potherie, whom he had previously declared, "wrote, without having seen the country, and without sufficient knowledge of it;" and, in part, on an unlocated Indian tradition, and for which he gives no authority.

In this case, La Potherie is erroneously credited with the statement, that Fort St. Nicholas was located twenty leagues above the lead mines or Dubuque. In point of fact, La Potherie nowhere mentions the name of Fort St. Nicholas—gives no intimation to warrant that it was situated on the western bank of the Mississippi, and hints nothing about the twenty league locality above the lead mines. It is true, however, that Dr. Butler, on page 60 of this volume, conveys such an idea, which Mr. Butterfield, perhaps, unwittingly followed; but when too late to correct the text, Dr. Butler discovered his error, which is set right in the *errata*—