

certain knowledge of Fort St. Nicholas. When Perrot took formal possession of the Upper Country at Fort St. Antoine, near the foot of Lake Pepin, May 8th, 1689, he especially refers to Bois-Guillot as "commanding the French in the neighborhood of the Wisconsin, on the Mississippi." This designation of Guillot's post by Perrot himself is significant—in the "environs" or neighborhood of the Wisconsin, and not, as Mr. Butterfield supposes, several miles below the Wisconsin, and on the western side of the Mississippi. "In the neighborhood of the Wisconsin," very fittingly describes the locality of Prairie du Chien, where Franquelin and other early cartographers locate Fort St. Nicholas.

How long Fort St. Nicholas existed, we have no means of determining. The last certain knowledge we have of it, Bois-Guillot was still there in May, 1689. It might have been abandoned when Perrot finally left the country in 1692, to take command among the Miamis near Kalamazoo, in Michigan. No mention is made of any fort there by Penicaut when he ascended the Mississippi in 1700—prior to which, according to the early maps of D'Anville, Bellin, and others, it had probably been "destroyed;" but precisely when, or how, are only left to conjecture.

#### Perrot's Fort Opposite the Lead Mines

The different posts established by Perrot for trading purposes along the Mississippi have doubtless proved somewhat confusing. Three such were erected on and about Lake Pepin, and Fort St. Nicholas, near the mouth of the Wisconsin named in honor of his patron saint. These trading-posts had gradually extended from the Fox River valley to the Wisconsin, and thence into the Sioux country.

If we may credit La Potherie, Perrot located yet another post on the Mississippi. It was below the mouth of the Wisconsin, which would seem to imply that it was on the same or eastern side of the Mississippi. The circumstances which led to its establishment are briefly these: Having served in the war against the Iroquois, Perrot, in the spring of 1690, left Montreal, accompanied by Louvigny and others, with messages and presents for the Indians of the upper country,