

with the further purpose of obtaining peltries which he had not in former years, been able to transport to market in consequence of the Iroquois war.¹

After reaching the Wisconsin country, a delegation of Miami Indians, then residing on the Mississippi, met Perrot, and made him a present, among other things, of a specimen of lead ore, from a "ruisseau"—brook or rivulet—which empties into the Mississippi; and requested him to fix a trading-post for their convenience below the Wisconsin, which he readily promised to do, within twenty days.

Having fulfilled this purpose, Perrot hastened to the Sioux country, and exerted his good offices, backed by government presents, with which he was charged, in bringing about a precarious peace among the hostile Indians in that quarter; and then "returned to the post which *he had recently built.*"²

Tailhan and Dr. Neill suggest that this establishment was in the region of Perrot's lead mines, which Charlevoix states were twenty-one leagues above the Moingouna—a great error, if by the Moingouna was meant the Des Moines; for, in point of fact, it is nearly three times that distance from the Des Moines to the Perrot or Dubuque mines. It is well established that the Perrot mines were located twenty leagues below the Wisconsin, as proven by the statement of Penicaut, who ascended the Mississippi in 1700, and by De Lisle's map three years later;³ and that is the approximate distance from the mouth of the Wisconsin to Dubuque.

La Potherie mentions that the lead at these mines was difficult to obtain, *as it was in rocky crevices.* The earliest mines at Dubuque were worked along Catfish Creek—no doubt the "ruisseau" alluded to by La Potherie—a mile or

¹ Tailhan's *Perrot*, p. 323; New York *Colonial Documents*, ix, p. 470; Neill's *Minnesota*, fourth edition, p. 146; his *Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota*, 1881, p. 33; his *Concise History*, 1887, p. 20; his *Notes on Early Wisconsin Explorations, Forts and Trading Posts*, in this volume, and sketch of Perrot, in *Historical Magazine*, July, 1865.

² Charlevoix, fourth edition, 1744, iii, p. 397, 398; Tailhan, *Perrot*, p. 326, 328; sketch of Perrot, in *Historical Magazine*, July, 1865; Neill's *Minnesota*, p. 146, and his *Concise History*, p. 20.

³ Margry, v, p. 412; Neill's *Minnesota*, p. 839, and his *Concise History*, p. 20.