

velous ease and success, by simply removing Franquelin's "little mark," indicating the locality of Fort St. Nicholas, and placing it some fifteen miles away. Having accomplished this skillful performance, he now essays to correct a "great mistake" of the great geographer, and one which he himself has twice, perhaps unwittingly, endorsed. Now, by a single dash of his pen, he proceeds to remove Fort St. Antoine from the foot of Lake Pepin, two hundred miles to the head of Green Bay. In this case Mr. Butterfield cites what he deems good authority, and we give him the benefit of doing so with good intentions. That he errs in his construction of this authority, I trust the evidence to be adduced, will be regarded as reasonably conclusive.

The only authority that appears to have any application to the case, which Mr. Butterfield cites, is in volume ix of *New York Colonial Documents*, p. 418, where we find Perrot's *procès-verbal* for taking possession of the Upper Mississippi country. This will bear a little examination. As early as October 8, 1686, Gov. Denonville, of Canada, informed the French government, that he had received letters "from the Upper Mississippi, where they propose wonders to me, were I to establish posts for the missions, and for the beavers which abound there."<sup>1</sup> It is curious to observe, that those who suggested these far-off posts, held out a double object, missions and beavers; but, we fear, the former was used as a sort of gilding, while they had an eye to "the main chance"—the valuable furs of the country.

It is a serious charge against the great Canadian cartographer of two centuries ago, that he committed not merely "a slight error" but "a great mistake;" and it is not so much my aim to attempt the defence of Franquelin's geographical labors, so highly eulogized by Gov. De la Barre, Parkman, Neill, and Baldwin, as it is to maintain the integrity of our early Wisconsin history.

Be this as it may, the French minister, March 8th, 1688, directed the governor, "in order to render incontestible His

<sup>1</sup> *New York Colonial Documents*, ix, p. 301.