

Majesty's right to the countries discovered by his subjects" in the great Northwest, to send capable persons to "take possession anew" of all that region, by setting up posts with His Majesty's arms affixed, and using all the usual forms customary on such occasions.¹ Hence Perrot was sent by Gov. Denonville, as we see by the *procès-verbal* of May 8th, 1689, to take formal possession of the Upper Mississippi country; and Perrot declares in that document, that "*being come from the Bay des Puants—i. e., Green Bay—to the Lake of the Wisconsin and river Mississippi, we did transport ourselves to the country of the Sioux,*" etc.; and after naming the Sioux and other upper tribes, then takes formal possession of the country, after declaring himself as locally "commanding for the king the post of the Sioux." Perrot mentions among the witnesses of the ceremony, Bois-Guillot, commanding the French "in the neighborhood of the Wisconsin on the Mississippi," Father Marest "missionary among the Sioux," and Le Sueur the early explorer, trader and fort builder in the Sioux country. These were all notable characters of the Upper Mississippi and Sioux territory—the very region where the *procès-verbal* itself plainly indicates possession was taken.

Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan, an able antiquarian, and editor of the New York *Colonial Documents*, gives at the head of the *procès-verbal*, his understanding of its aim and character: "*Minute of the taking possession of the country on the Upper Mississippi.*"

In Perrot's *Memoire*, p. 304, Tailhan expressly states: "Perrot, who had been recalled, in 1685, from the country of the Sioux, received, four years later, an express order to take possession of it in the name of the king, as appears of the following proceeding;" then citing at length Perrot's document of May 8, 1689. So Dr. Neill and others writing upon the subject, take the same view.

When Columbus took formal possession of the New World, De Tracy, of the Mohawk forts and settlements, La Salle, of Arkansas and Louisiana, De Nonville, of the Seneca country, and Céleron, of the Ohio valley, in each and every

¹ N. Y. *Colonial Documents*, ix, p. 372.