

instance, the ceremonies of the *procès-verbal* took place in the country itself; indeed there could be no authentic minute of formally taking possession of any region unless accomplished at some central or prominent point in the territory in question. The very act of "taking possession" implies this; and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to cite a case where any such formalities were performed hundreds of miles away. It would be like a "chimney corner survey," unworthy of recognition. So Perrot expressly states in his *procès-verbal*, that his act of taking possession of the Upper Mississippi country was "*done at Post St. Antoine*," and nowhere else, which being centrally located on the Upper Mississippi, and in the region embraced in this formal procedure, was a most fitting place for such a ceremony.

Mr. Butterfield has discovered what he evidently supposed was a hitherto overlooked fact, namely, that at the head of Perrot's *procès-verbal*, as given in the *New York Colonial Documents*, are the words, "*Canada, Bay des Puants*;" and hence infers, that "post St. Antoine" was located at Green Bay. It is true, these words are given at the head of the copy in the New York archives; but it is quite obvious, that they formed no part of Perrot's original document, but were simply the endorsement on the paper, made, no doubt, by some clerk in the public office where received, when filed away. The original document was sent to the governor at Quebec; and on July 25, 1750, Dulaurent, the king's notary at Quebec, certifies to a collated copy, transmitted to the French government, preserved in the archives of the marine, at Paris, from which both Tailhan and Margry obtained their copies,¹ neither of which has the endorsement which the copyist of the *New York Colonial Documents* has given. It is plain that Tailhan and Margry did not regard this endorsement as a part of the original document, and hence omitted it. It would seem that the endorsement was made on the copy after reaching Paris, else, if made at Quebec, the word "Canada" would have been unnecessary.²

¹ Tailhan's *Perrot*, pp. 304, 305; Margry, v, pp. 33, 34.

² Application was made, through the courtesy of Douglas Brymner, Esq., Canadian archivist, to the proper authorities at Quebec, to ascer-