

sin." Two years later at that point the Amsterdam atlas of Covens and Mortier shows the words *Ancien Fort*.¹

In addition to what has been adduced from La Potherie and Franquelin, the testimony of a noted English map-maker should be considered. In 1762, a map entitled "*Canada and the northern part of Louisiana*," by Thomas Jeffreys, geographer to his Majesty" [George III] was published. On this map, at the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi, we read these words: "*Fort St. Nicholas destroyed*." Again, in the *Geography* published by Banks in London about a century ago, a folio of 992 pages, in a map opposite page 464, I find at the mouth of the Wisconsin the words "Fort St. Nicolas." There is never much smoke without fire, and it is hard to hold the witness of so many a map to be all lies made out of whole cloth.

The considerations which have now been presented may be strongly re-enforced by local traditions and ruins, but they seem to need no confirmation. If they do not enable us to hold fast our faith in any French fort whatever near Prairie du Chien, we must, if consistent, become as skeptical regarding most of our early history as agnostics are regarding religion. I say, then—"Hold the fort! Why not hold the fort?"²

¹ Ms. letter of Judge C. C. Baldwin, of the Western Reserve Historical Society.

² Thus good historical authorities point out the establishment of Perrot's Fort St. Nicholas, in 1685, just above the mouth of the Wisconsin, according to Franquelin and D'Anville, or just below, according to La Potherie. It had, very likely, but a brief existence. Another fort was established in 1755, at what is called the Lower Town of Prairie du Chien, the particular locality of which is designated in volume ninth of the *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, pp. 286-91. It may be added, that Dr. Neill, one of the very ablest historical investigators in the Northwest, locates Perrot's establishment of 1685, "at Prairie du Chien"—*Hist. Minnesota*, fourth revised edition, 1882, p. 799.

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