

their perseverance and their mutual understanding, the descendants of the French in Canada have preserved almost intact their primitive institutions; they take an active part in the administration and government of the country; their language is upon the same footing as English in the deliberative assemblies; in a word, they have made a wide place for themselves there, — a thing quite necessary, however, to attribute to their number and to their vitality, which is affirmed by its remarkable growth. In 1763, at the time of the cession of Canada to England, there were sixty thousand Frenchmen there; to-day the French Canadians number nearly three millions!

Most of our large journals quite recently published some letters that were addressed to them by the publicists, merchants, engineers, etc., who were members of the French delegation conducted by the curé Labelle, perhaps the most popular man in Canada, where the Catholic clergy, recruited from the population of French origin, exercise a very great influence; which delegation was to ascertain *de visu* the varied resources that this country offers and to study the means of establishing between it and France a direct run of business that should be profitable to both. These visitors are unanimous in declaring that the reception given

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September, 1634, and went to Wisconsin." This supposition he amplified in a paper in *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vol. viii., under date of August, 1877. In 1881, Consul Willshire Butterfield issued a monograph entitled *History of the Discovery of the Northwest by John Nicolet in 1634, with a Sketch of his Life*. In this valuable little work, Mr. Butterfield brought forth new facts and arguments, which fixed the date at 1634 beyond the region of doubt, and established an entirely new fact, — previously undiscovered by historians of the West, — that Nicolet did not discover the Wisconsin river, as had been previously assumed, but only journeyed up the Fox river as far as the village of the Mascoutins and then journeyed southward to the country of the Illinois.

At the editor's request, Mr. Butterfield has prepared a bibliography of the subject of Nicolet's career. With this bibliography, the present article by M. Jouan, Mr. Butterfield's monograph, and M. Sulte's article in Vol. viii. of these *Collections*, — with Dr. Draper's notes upon the last named, — the subject of Nicolet is practically exhausted, so far as the presentation of historical material is concerned. — Ed.