

brought up in a maritime city, should have left his native country to go and seek his fortune in the lands beyond the sea.

On this presumption, M. Pierre Margry (who had become acquainted in Paris with a copy of the same marriage contract), in 1858, sought information at the mayoralty of Cherbourg, and obtained that which follows, gathered from the registers of catholicism of the church of the Holy Trinity, and deposited in the Hotel de Ville in 1792:

December 3rd, 1604: birth of Roulland Nicollet, son of Thomas Nicollet;

October 27th, 1605: birth of Thomas Nicollet, son of Thomas Nicollet;

December 15th, 1611: birth of Perrette, daughter of Thomas Nicollet;

August 13th, 1656: death of Jeanne Nicollet, daughter of the late Thomas;

December 14th, 1605: birth of Marguerite Delamer (possibly a first cousin of Jean, but, at all events, not his mother; the date would contradict it).

As one may see, there is in all this nothing about Jean.

During the last months of 1882, I resumed these researches at the request of M. Pierre Margry, commencing by examining the old catholic registers [*registres de catholicité*] of Cherbourg, which go back to June 12, 1549, but without success. There was nothing concerning the birth of Thomas Nicollet and of Margaret Delamer, their marriage, their death, nor the birth of a son named Jean up to the end of 1605. These records give only the births, and furthermore there is a break of eighteen years, from 1572 to 1591. The marriages and deaths are recorded only from 1610 onward, with a break from 1620 to Easter 1628.¹ These old registers are otherwise very incomplete; the entries of births give only the family and christian names (usually only a single christian name) of the newborn, the father, the godfather and the godmother; the mother is not mentioned.

¹ As appears from the marriage contract of Jean, executed in 1637, his father was dead at this last date.—H. J.