

In other communes, my attempts were not more successful; therefore up to the present time nothing affirms positively that Jean Nicolet was born at Cherbourg or in its vicinity. There is only a presumption; but until a more fortunate, or more skilful, seeker shall have found certain proofs, may not this presumption, ought it not indeed, to be regarded as equivalent to a certainty?

Nicolet arrived as I have stated in 1618 in Canada, where "his temperament and excellent memory aroused great hopes for him."<sup>1</sup> He was a man full of spirit, daring, and at the same time deeply religious. He was sent very early (probably about 1620) a hundred leagues from Quebec up the Ottawa river, among the Algonquins of Allumette island (Champlain had ascended this river in 1615) in order to learn the language of the Algonquins which was then in general use in the west and on the north bank of the St. Lawrence. He remained for two years among these savages without seeing a single European, living their life, "always accompanying the barbarians on their expeditions and travels, amid fatigues that cannot be imagined except by those who have seen them; several times he passed seven or eight days without eating anything; he was seven whole weeks without other nourishment than a little bark."<sup>2</sup> About 1622, he at the head of 400 Algonquins went to negotiate peace with the Iroquois and succeeded completely in the undertaking. Later he went among the Nipissings, or Algonquins of Lake Nipissing, fifty leagues farther to the north-west, and remained with them eight or nine years, becoming so to speak, one of them, adopted by the nation, taking part in their frequent councils, "having his cabin apart, doing his own fishing and trading."<sup>3</sup>

During this long residence among the Nipissings, did Nic-

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indeed a person going from door to door, on a rainy November day, floundering about in broken up roads, and through muddy back yards, to look after some worthy fellow dead 240 years, could hardly be in his right mind.—H. J.

<sup>1</sup> *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1643.—H. J.

<sup>2</sup> *Relation* of 1643.—H. J.

<sup>3</sup> *Relation* of 1643.—H. J.