

olet appear at all at Quebec? We cannot say, but it is more than probable that he did not leave the Indians while the English continued to occupy this city, from 1629 to 1632; and more than probable, also, that he with some other Frenchmen who were in the same situation, left not a stone unturned in order to harm the invaders in the minds of the savages.<sup>1</sup>

On the return of the French to Quebec, Nicolet was recalled there to be employed as clerk and interpreter of the Company of the Hundred Associates. It seems however that he may have requested his recall, alarmed for the safety of his soul,—I have stated that he had very pronounced religious views,—in a remote region where there were no missionaries.<sup>2</sup> Without doubt, also, Champlain, who had resumed the government of the colony after the departure of the English, was delighted to see him again and to consult him concerning a project that he was meditating, and one which Nicolet more than any other seemed to him capable of carrying out, owing to his intercourse with the Indians and the influence that he very quickly exercised over them.<sup>3</sup>

Champlain had ascended a part of the Ottawa river and visited the shore of the Georgian bay, in the northeast angle of Lake Huron, but his ideas on the region of the great lakes were still very vague, hardly defined at all in fact, in 1634.<sup>4</sup> Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Superior were unknown to him; he had heard the falls of Niagara spoken of but to him they were no more than ordinary rapids. Still he had heard it said that toward the west, four hundred leagues away, there

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<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Sulte, *Mélanges d'Histoire et de Littérature*, Ottawa, 1876.—H. J.

<sup>2</sup> "He (Nicolet) withdrew only in order to secure his salvation in the use of the sacraments, for want of which there is great peril for the soul among the savages." *Relation* of 1643.—H. J.

<sup>3</sup> ". . . whom (the savages) he was able to control and to direct whither he wished with a skill that will hardly find its equal." *Relation* of 1643.—H. J.

<sup>4</sup> Champlain's map of 1632 gives a fair outline of Lakes Huron and Superior and the Sault Ste. Marie; while the general features of the Fox-Wisconsin water-course are also given, although of course from hearsay, and placed north of Lake Superior instead of south of it.—Ed.