

did he not take what was designated to him by the name of "Great Water" for the Pacific ocean or at least for a great water-course that emptied into it.¹ The Winnebagoes spoke a language that differed radically from that of the Hurons and Algonquins; is it certain that he fully understood his interlocutors? These are doubtful points the discussion of which would carry me too far beyond the limits that I have drawn for myself;² still one may ask why it was that Nicolet, believing himself only three days' journey from the sea, should not have gone and verified the fact; was it because he was so far convinced that he deemed this verification needless?

It appears quite certain however that he did not limit his journey to the Fox and Wisconsin rivers but that he proceeded southward into the territory inhabited by the Illinois. The *Relations* written after 1636 by Fathers Le Jeune and Vincent, contain indeed much information given by Nicolet upon the country and the people southwest of Lake Michigan.³ He was the first Frenchman to penetrate so far in that direction.⁴

Retracing his steps he re-entered Quebec at the beginning of autumn 1635 with a rich store of observations of every sort, having acquired for French influence and by peaceful means only, large populations until then unknown. It is probable that he would not have ceased his adventurous travels had not the death of Champlain, which occurred soon after his return, suspended for a time this kind of undertaking. Nicolet was then stationed, in his office of clerk and interpreter, at the post of Three Rivers, the most turbu-

¹ For a long while it was believed that the Mississippi emptied into the Pacific ocean; the contrary was made known only in 1682 by the explorations of the chevalier La Salle, and indeed it was necessary to wait seventeen years for the question to be fully decided by Lemoyne d'Iberville finding the mouth of the river by water. (Benj. Sulte, *loc. cit.*)—H. J.

² See Benj. Sulte, *Mélanges d'Histoire et de Littérature*, 1876, and C. W. Butterfield, *loc. cit.*—H. J.

³ This conveys a wrong impression. The author should say "southwest of Green bay," or "west of Lake Michigan."—Ed.

⁴ Benj. Sulte, *Mélanges d'Hist. et de Litt.*, 1876.—H. J.