

lent and uncertain in the whole country. He performed his duties here "to the great satisfaction of the French and Indians by whom he was equally and above all others loved."¹ Two years later, in October, 1637, he married at Quebec, a god-daughter of Champlain, Margaret, daughter of William Couillart, who arrived there in 1613 as carpenter and calker and later became a farmer.² This name, Couillard, common in the department of La Manche, would lead one to believe that he was from our province.

Nicolet owned in common with his brother-in-law Olivier le Tardif, general agent of the company, an estate which the brook of Belleborne ran through, hence the title of "Sieur de Belleborne" given to him in some documents of that time.

In October, 1642, while he was at Quebec, where for a month or two he had been taking the place of his brother-in-law who was spending some time in France, the Algonquins of Three Rivers took prisoner an Indian of New England, whose nation was allied to the Iroquois, our enemies. The unfortunate creature was to be put to death, not immediately, but after he had first suffered all the refinements of torture in use among the redskins; in vain the French agents and their missionaries interceded in his favor; their interference only redoubled the fury of the tormentors. It was then that Nicolet was sent for in the hope that his influence over the savages might save the prisoner. Nicolet did not hesitate a moment; his devotion was appealed to, and this devotion was to cost him his life; — but again let us hear the author of the *Relation* of 1643:

"I will add here a word about the life and death of M. Nicolet, interpreter and clerk of the gentlemen of the Com-

¹ *Relation* of 1643.—H. J.

² Margaret must have been very young as her father was married in 1621. William Couillard (or Couillart, the name is written in both ways) was the second Canadian ploughman by order of date. He was one of the Frenchmen who remained in Canada during the occupation of Quebec by the English from 1629 to 1633. His posterity, as a general thing prosperous, is sufficiently numerous to-day to make it possible to form a battalion of 500 men composed of Couillards able to carry arms.—BENJ. SULTE.