

## RADISSON AND GROSEILLIERS IN WISCONSIN.<sup>1</sup>

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### THE THIRD VOYAGE OF RADISSON.

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We were then possessed by the hurrons and Octanac [Ottawas]; but our minde was not to stay in an island, but

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<sup>1</sup> Pierre-d'Esprit, Sieur Radisson, and his sister Margaret's husband, Médard Chouart, Sieur des Groseilliers, were among the most daring and successful explorers known in North America during the third quarter of the seventeenth century. Groseilliers arrived in Canada in 1641, when but sixteen years of age; while Radisson arrived on the 24th of May, 1651. They were constant companions in their dangerous journeyings, through the heart of the Northwest, from 1658 to 1685; being alternately employed under the flags of both Great Britain and France, as fancy or their self-interest dictated. From 1652 to 1664, Radisson made notes of his individual and their joint wanderings, which he copied out in 1665; these cover his first four voyages of exploration in the Northwest. Later, he wrote out a journal of their voyage of 1682-83, to the Hudson Bay region, where they originated the idea of forming a settlement, from which developed the Hudson Bay Company's mammoth establishment; and still another narrative covering their experiences there in 1684, — the last named being in French. The MS. narratives of the first four voyages, evidently intended not for publication, but for the edification of King Charles II., of England, whose patronage the adventurers were then seeking, in London, — came into the possession of the famous diarist, Samuel Pepys, secretary of the admiralty both to King Charles and James II. In 1703, Pepys's manuscripts, falling into the hands of London shopkeepers, were used, many of them, for waste paper; but in January, 1750, Richard Rawlinson, a famous collector, secured as many of these Pepys documents as he could find, and among them chanced to be Radisson's priceless narratives of 1652-1664. Finally, they drifted into the Bodleian Library, where they now are. The narrative of 1682-83 was purchased for the British Museum, July 8, 1839, of Rodd, a London dealer in antiquities; while the French narrative of 1684 came to the Museum in the collection of Sir Hans Sloane. In 1885, Gideon D. Scull, of London, England, copied these manuscripts in the Bodleian Library and the British Museum, and later the same year they were published by the Prince Society, of Boston, in a limited edition,