

half-way along the southern shore of Lake Superior, between Red Cliff and St. Louis River, he with difficulty made his way over the fallen trees and beaver dams which then choked its course. From its headwaters there is a two-mile portage to the Upper St. Croix; this traversed, Du l'Hut was upon a romantic stream which swiftly carried him, through foaming rapids and deep, cool lakes, down into the Father of Waters. Here it was that he heard of Father Louis Hennepin's captivity among the Sioux, and with much address and some courage rescued that doughty adventurer, and carried him by way of the Fox-Wisconsin route in safety to Mackinaw.

An adventurous forest trader, named Le Sueur, was the next man to imprint his name on the page of Lake Superior history. The Fox Indians, who controlled the valleys of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, had for various reasons become so hostile to the French that those divergent streams were no longer safe as a gateway from the Great Lakes to the Great River. The tendency of the prolonged Fox War was to force the fur trade travel to the portages of Chicago and St. Josephs on the south, and those of Lake Superior on the north.¹ It was with a view to keeping open one of Du l'Hut's old routes,—the Bois Brulé and St. Croix Rivers,—that Le Sueur was dispatched by the authorities of New France in 1693. He built a stockaded fort on Madelaine Island, convenient for guarding the northern approach,² and another on an island in the Mississippi, below the mouth of the St. Croix, and near the present town of Red Wing, Minnesota. The post in the Mississippi soon became "the center of commerce for the Western parts;" and the station in Chequamegon Bay also

¹ See Parkman's *Half Century of Conflict*, and Hebbard's *Wisconsin under French Domination* (Madison, 1890).

² Neill, in *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, v., p. 140, says that soon after St. Lusson's taking possession of the Northwest for France, at Sault Ste. Marie (1671), French traders built a small fort set about with cedar palisades, on which a cannon was mounted, "at the mouth of a small creek or pond midway between the present location of the American Fur Company's establishment and the mission-house of the American Board of Foreign Missions."