

The next white men to visit our bay were two Frenchmen, of whom W. W. Warren says:¹ "One clear morning in the early part of winter, soon after the islands which are clustered in this portion of Lake Superior, and known as the Apostles, had been locked in ice, a party of young men of the Ojibways started out from their village in the Bay of Shag-a-waum-ik-ong [Chequamegon], to go, as was customary, and spear fish through holes in the ice, between the island of La Pointe and the main shore, this being considered as the best ground for this mode of fishing. While engaged in this sport, they discovered a smoke arising from a point of the adjacent island, toward its eastern extremity.

"The island of La Pointe was then totally unfrequented, from superstitious fears which had but a short time previous led to its total evacuation by the tribe, and it was considered an act of the greatest hardihood for any one to set foot on its shores. The young men returned home at evening and reported the smoke which they had seen arising from the island, and various were the conjectures

beautiful bay echo with their boat songs, and when resting from their labors sparked the dusky maidens in their wigwams."

Rev. E. P. Wheeler, of Ashland, a native of Madelaine Island, and an authority on the region, writes me: "I think Radisson's fort was at the mouth of Boyd's Creek,—at least that place seems for the present to fulfill the conditions of his account. It is about three or four miles from here to Fish Creek valley, which leads, when followed down stream, to marshes, 'meadows, and a pool.' No other stream seems to have the combination as described. Boyd's Creek is about four miles from the route he probably took, which would be by way of the plateau back from the first level, near the lake. Radisson evidently followed Fish Creek down towards the lake, before reaching the marshes. This condition is met by the formation of the creek, as it is some distance from the plateau through which Fish Creek flows to its marshy expanse. Only one thing makes me hesitate about coming to a final decision,—that is, the question of the age of the lowlands and formation around Wittlesey Creek. I am going to go over the ground with an expert geologist, and will report later. Thus far, there seems to be no reason to doubt that Fish Creek is the one upon which Radisson hunted."—ED.

¹ *Minn. Hist. Colls.*, v., pp. 121, 122, gives the date as 1652.—ED.