

After the coming of Allouez, we find Lake Superior frequently mentioned in the *Jesuit Relations*. The attention of both priests and laymen was early attracted to the copper mines, which receive much attention from the annalists of that time. The lake is also regarded as a promising seat for missionary enterprises, because of the many nations that frequent its shores for fishing and trading purposes. But upon the retreat of Marquette, the Jesuits abandoned the field.

Rivers and lakes were the primitive highways followed by the French explorers. Within the region now known as Wisconsin, the sources of divergent water systems interlaced—here was the parting of the ways. To Wisconsin portage-paths, especially to that between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, the explorers were early led; thus topographical peculiarities caused Wisconsin to become known to the French at a time when the Puritans of Massachusetts had not ventured far beyond the sound of the sea.

Nicolet and Radisson and Groseilliers had sought the shores of Green Bay, the upper end of the path to the Mississippi; and Allouez had established a Jesuit mission there, before Marquette left Lake Superior. The centre of interest now shifted to this region; thenceforth our documents are chiefly concerned with the exploitation of the Fox-Wisconsin waterway and the lands to which it led.

In Perrot's *Mémoire* and the *Jesuit Relations* we have our earliest detailed accounts of the life and customs of the Wisconsin tribes, gaining from them vivid impressions of the Indians as they were when first encountered by white men. From these documents we obtain a clear view of the attitude of the savages to the newcomers; and the arguments resorted to by the latter to induce the tribesmen to abandon their simple life and seriously to take up the business of supplying Frenchmen with peltries, in exchange for white men's clothing, utensils, weapons, and ornaments. The effect of this intercourse on the French themselves is readily traced, with the lowering of standards on the part of both races as they sought to meet on common ground. The gradual growth of the Jesuit missions; the spread of the fur trade, with the economic and social revolution wrought thereby in the forest life of the West—and the