

demoralization which often resulted, thus nullifying missionary influence; the introduction of military posts, to protect the traders and to connect Canada and Louisiana by an arch of armed occupation in which Wisconsin was the keystone—the development of all these movements is clearly recorded in the documents herein presented. Only through a knowledge of them, can early Wisconsin history be fully understood.

The story revealed by the documents abounds in dramatic incidents: Nicolet, hoping to find Chinamen on the shores of Green Bay; war-parties of half-naked Iroquois, Algonquians, and Sioux, chasing each other in the dark Wisconsin forests, with the intention of literally devouring the vanquished; Radisson and Groseilliers, seeking peltries and fierce adventures; stout-hearted sons of Loyola endeavoring to win our painted savages to a knowledge of the Cross; coureurs de bois like Perrot, Du Luth, La Salle, and Le Sueur, exploiting for gain far-stretching forests and waterways; Joliet and Marquette discovering the Mississippi at Prairie du Chien; Hennepin, with his curious experiences as a captive among the Sioux; and finally, the Fox War, a dreary half-century of spasmodic conflict, which absorbed the attention and helped drain the treasury of New France, contributing not a little to her downfall.

Highly significant are the revelations of the duplicity and practical dishonesty of many of the French military officers in the Northwest, especially during the last fifty or sixty years of the old regime. An appointment to a frontier post was often brought about by corrupt influence. The appointee sought at every turn to enrich himself at the expense of both the Indians and the king. Charges of corruption were freely bandied to and fro; and throughout the system, from governor down to the smallest commandant, one detects the presence of spies and informers, with the usual accompaniment of malice and slander. It is a sorry picture, but characteristic of New France.

In the preparation of material for this volume, which sheds so much new light on the earliest chapter of Wisconsin history, a large share of the work has fallen to Miss Emma Helen Blair, chief of the Division of Maps and Manuscripts in the Library of the Society. Miss Blair's long service as Assistant