

leagues¹ Westward. He embarked in the Huron country, with seven Savages; and they passed by many small nations, both going and returning. When they arrived at their destination, they fastened two sticks in the earth, and hung gifts thereon, so as to relieve those tribes from the notion of mistaking them for enemies to be massacred. When he was two days' journey from that nation, he sent one of those Savages to bear tidings of the peace, which word was especially well received when they heard that it was a European who carried the message; they despatched several young men to meet the Manitouiniou—that is to say, “the wonderful man.” They meet him; they escort him, and carry all his baggage. He wore a grand robe of China damask, all strewn with flowers and birds of many colors. No sooner did they perceive him than the women and children fled, at the sight of a man who carried thunder in both hands—for thus they called the two pistols that he held. The news of his coming quickly spread to the places round about, and there assembled four or five thousand men. Each of the chief men made a feast for him, and at one of these banquets they served at least sixscore Beavers.² The peace was concluded; he returned to the Hurons, and some time later to the three Rivers, where he continued his employment as Agent and Interpreter, to the great satisfaction of both the French and the Savages, by whom he was equally and singularly loved. In so far as his office allowed, he vigorously co-operated with our Fathers for the conversion of those peoples,

¹Distances are usually given in leagues by early French explorers in America; but they use the term only approximately, as they estimated instead of measuring distances. The standard French league is about 2.42 English miles; the common league is 2.76 of these. The arpent is an old French measure of distance, used in measuring land, equivalent to about 192 English feet (linear). Another old French measure was the brasse, equivalent to 5.318 English feet.—Ed.

²Le Jeune mentions (*Jes. Relations*, xviii, pp. 231–233) the tribes seen by Nicolet in Wisconsin—Menomonees, Winnebagoes, Mascoutens, and Pottawattomies. The date of his visit must have been 1634, according to Sulte (*Mélanges d'histoire*, pp. 426, 436) and Butterfield (*Discovery of Northwest*, pp. 42–45); but Heberd argues (*Wisconsin under French Dominion*, pp. 14–17) that 1638 is more nearly correct.—Ed.