

1690-91: PERROT'S DEALINGS WITH WISCONSIN TRIBES; HE ESTABLISHES A FORT ON THE MISSISSIPPI, NEAR THE WISCONSIN.

[From La Potherie.]

The arrival of the French at Michilimakinak was heard of at La Baye. The Chief of the Puans, a man of sense, who greatly loved our nation, resolved to thwart the design of the Outagamis to kill our people. He went to find them, and made them believe that Onontio had sent Le Petit Bled d'Inde [Perrot] with three hundred Iroquois from the Sault, as many more Abenakis, all the Nepiciriniens, and six hundred Frenchmen, to revenge himself for their evil project. The Outagamis precipitately quitted their ambuscade, and went back to their Village. This Chief, who was afraid that they would learn of his ruse, went to meet Perrot at the entrance of the Bay; the latter promised to keep his secret, and presented to him a gold-trimmed jacket. A contrary wind compelled them to halt there for a time, and Perrot had an opportunity to become acquainted with all that had occurred at La Baye. The Outagamis had taken thither their hatchets, which were dulled and broken, and had compelled a Jesuit brother to repair them; their Chief held a naked sword, ready to kill him, while he worked. The brother tried to represent to them their folly, but was so maltreated that he had to take to his bed. The Chief then prepared ambuscades, in order to await the French who were to return from the country of the Nadouaissioux. All the peoples of the Bay had, it is true, good reason to complain, because our people had gone to carry to their enemies all kinds of munitions of war; and one could not be astonished that we had so much difficulty in managing all those people. Perrot sent back the Puan Chief to the Outagamis, to tell them on his behalf that he had learned of their design against his young men, and would punish them for it; and, to let them know that he was not disturbed by all their threats, that he had sent back all his men, except fifty Frenchmen; that he had three hundred musket-shots to fire, and enough provisions with which to receive them; that if he should by chance encounter any one of their