

which is on Lake Superior; they came down to Montreal only when they wished to sell their Peltries, and then trembling with dread of the enemy. The Trade was not yet opened with the Outaouaks. The name of the French people gradually became known in that region, and some of the French made their way into those places where they believed that they could make some profit; it was a Peru for them. The Savages could not understand why these men came so far to search for their worn-out beaver robes;<sup>1</sup> meanwhile they admired the wares brought to them by the French, which they regarded as extremely precious. The knives, the hatchets, and above all the iron weapons, could not be sufficiently praised; and the guns so astonished them that they declared that there was a spirit within the gun, which caused the loud noise made when it was fired. \* \* \* The Savages often took them [the Frenchmen] for Spirits and Gods; if any Tribe had some Frenchmen among them, that was sufficient to make them feel safe from any injuries that their neighbors might inflict upon them, and the French became Mediators in all their quarrels. The detailed conversations which I have had with many Voyageurs in those countries have supplied me with material for my accounts of those Peoples; all that they have told me about them has so uniformly agreed that I have felt that it would be a favor to the public to give it some idea of that vast region.

Sieur Perot has best known those Nations; the governors-general of Canada have always employed him in all their schemes; and his acquaintance with the savage tongues, his experience, and his mental ability have enabled him to make discoveries which gave opportunity to Monsieur de la Salle to push forward all those explorations in which he achieved so great success. It was through his agency that the Mississippi became known. He rendered very important services to the Colony, made known

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<sup>1</sup>The beaver-skins most sought by the French were those designated by the name of *castor gras d'hiver* ("greasy, or fat, winter beaver")—that is, the skins of beavers killed during the winter, and of which the savages had made robes, which they had worn sufficiently long to grease them through, by their sweat penetrating to the roots of the fur.—Tailhan, in *Perrot*, p. 317.