1718: DESCRIPTION OF MICHILLIMACKINAC; INDIAN TRIBES
OF THAT REGION.

["Relation of Sieur de Lamothe Cadillac, Captain on full pay com-
manding a company of the Marine troops in Canada; formerly Com-
mandant of Missilimakinak and other posts in distant countries, where
he remained three years." This document is published by Margry in
Découv. et établ., v, pp. 75–132; from it we select and translate sec-
tions i and v.]

I. *Missilimakinak.*

Missilimakinak means in our language *Isle de la Tortue*
[Turtle Island]. This name may be due either to its shape or
to the fact that a turtle was found in the vicinity. It is situ-
ated on lake Huron, and is about two leagues in circumference;
it is a league and a half from the inhabited mainland; it is
occupied only during the fishing season, when an abundance of
fish is caught all around it.

Opposite this island is a large sandy cove in the lake-shore,
in the middle of which is the French fort, where there is a
garrison. There the commandant-in-chief of the country re-
sides, having under him sundry commandants in various posts;
but one and all of them are chosen by the governor-general of
New France. This post is called Fort de Buade. The Jesuits'
convent, the French village, and those of the Hurons and
Outaouas, are contiguous to one another; and all together bor-
der on, fill and complete the head of the cove. It should be
observed that in that country the word "town" is unknown;
so that, if one wished to speak of Paris, he would have to des-
ignate it by the expression "great village."

The site of this post is most advantageous, because it is very
near to Lake Huron, by which all the nations of the South are
obliged to pass when they go to or return from Montreal, as
well as the French who wish to trade in distant regions.
Neither the one nor the other can pass without being seen, be-
cause the horizon is so wide that canoes can be distinguished
from the fort as far as the strongest eyes can see. In a word,
it may be said that this place is the centre, as it were, for all
the rest of the colony, whence everything is distributed; and