

from their Village;¹ that they had been well received by the French; and that they were bringing a large supply of merchandise. This Oracle would have been believed if Perot, who knew that his Interpreter had played the Juggler, had not declared that he was a liar. The latter came to Perot, and heaped upon him loud reproaches, complaining that he did not at all realize what hardships his Interpreter had encountered in this Voyage, and that it was Perot's fault that he had not been recompensed for his prediction. The Old Men begged that Perot himself would relieve them from their anxiety. After telling them that such knowledge belonged only to God, he made a calculation, from the day of their departure, of the stay that they would probably make at Montreal, and of the time when their return might be expected; and determined as nearly as possible the time when they could reach home. Fifteen days later, a man Fishing for Sturgeon came to the Village in great fright, to warn them that he had seen a Canoe, from which several gunshots had proceeded; this was enough to make them believe that the Iroquois were coming against them. Disorder prevailed throughout the Village; they were ready to flee into the woods or to shut themselves into their Fort. There was no probability that these were Iroquois, who usually make their attacks by stealth; Perot conjectured that they were probably their own men, who were thus displaying their joy as they came near the Village. In fact, a young man who had been sent out as a scout came back, in breathless haste, and reported that it was their own people who were returning. If their terror had caused general consternation, this good news caused no less joy throughout the village. Two Chiefs, who had seen Perot blow into his gun at the time of the first alarm, came to let him know of the arrival of their people, and begged him always to consult his gun. All were eager to receive the fleet. As they approached, the new-comers discharged a salvo of musketry, followed by shouts and yells, and continued their firing as they came toward the Village. When they were two or three hun-

¹The Manistique river, which, with its tributaries, waters Schoolcraft county, Mich.—Ed.