

which Radisson, writing in English, changed into "river of the meadows," prairie in French and meadow in English being synonymous; the "lake of the castors" that Radisson mentions is plainly Lake Nipissing—Radisson says that it was thirty leagues in compass; the Nipissing Indians, who lived along French River, were called Sorcerers by the French, hence Radisson's "river of the Sorcerers"; Radisson's "first great lake" is most certainly Lake Huron, the first great lake that the French encountered in coming west by way of the Ottawa.

At the mouth of French River, Radisson and Groseilliers, who had left the French settlements contrary to the mandate of the French king's representatives at Quebec, turned their faces westward and were soon at Sault Ste. Marie, where they rested and feasted. Radisson says that at that place they found the truth of what the Indians had often said, that they "should make good cheare of a fish that they call Assickmack, wch signifieth a white fish. The beare, the castors, and ye Oriniack showed themselves often, but to their cost; indeed, it was to us like a terrestriall paradise." From the Sault the explorers went to Chequamegon Bay. Radisson gives us very clear descriptions of the places that they passed on the way, including the Grand Portal, to which he gave his Christian name, and Keweenaw Bay and Keweenaw Point. They portaged across Keweenaw Point. Their Huron companions, who had accompanied them all the way from the lower St. Lawrence, left them at Chequamegon Bay to visit their own nation, which at that time dwelt in northwestern Wisconsin, some distance inland. On the shore of Chequamegon Bay, near Whittlesey's Creek or Shore's Landing,⁹ Radisson and Groseilliers built a little hut, the first structure erected by white men on Lake Superior. Radisson's description of it is interesting. He says: "We went about to make a fort of stakes, wch was in this manner. Suppose that the watter side had ben in one end; att the same end there should be murderers, and att need we made a bastion in a triangle to defend us from an assault. The doore was neare the watter side, our fire was in the middle, and our bed on the right hand, covered. There were boughs of trees all about our fort layed across, one uppon an other. Besides these boughs, we had a long cord tyed wth some small bells, wch weare senteryes."

Within two weeks fifty Hurons came and escorted the two white men to their village, which was situate five great days' journey inland, probably near Court Oreilles. After the usual winter hunt, the Hurons and the explorers met again near a small lake and soon a large number of Ottawas joined them. Five hundred of these Indians died of famine and Radisson's description of the scenes of horror that

9. The Rev. Chrysostom Verwyst, O. S. F., in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, Vol. XIII., pp. 433, 434.