

taken the latitude correctly there, $45^{\circ}50''$, (as the chances are, he would have done), he would have detected the mistake which he had made at Portage du Fort, and have altered his figures, for otherwise he would have absurdly proved himself to have been travelling south instead of north.

Thus then the matter stands. It appears probable, that while traversing the Muskrat Lake Portage in 1613, Champlain lost a scientific instrument called an astrolabe. In 1867, at a point in the line of this portage, such an instrument, evidently of Champlain's period, was found. We have no positive reason to adduce for disbelieving that the article found is the article that was lost. Hence, not irrationally, we allow ourselves the pleasure of thinking that we have before us, really, a veritable and most interesting relic of the bold, brave, resolute founder of Quebec and of New France.

It should be added that along with, or in close proximity to, the astrolabe, some small copper vessels or pans fitting into each other, were ploughed up, and two small silver cups with a device, perhaps a crest, engraved upon them. Although a diligent search was at once made for other articles in the locality, nothing else was found; shewing that this was not a *cache* or deposit of effects for temporary safe-keeping, but a case of accidental loss. The silver cups, of little intrinsic value, were sold sometime after the find to a passing peddler. Mr. Cassels took the trouble to trace the subsequent history of these cups, and learned that they had been melted down. As to the copper pans: when exhumed they were greatly decayed and quite useless; they accordingly became mixed up with the 'old metals' of the settler's house, and were finally lost. A portion of one of them was remembered by the finder to have been nailed over a leaky spot in a log canoe.

Also, it may be subjoined, that Parkman, in his 'Pioneers of France in the New World,' pp. 346-7, whilst giving an account of Champlain's progress on the 6th and 7th of June, 1613, makes him emerge on the expansion of the Ottawa, known as Lake Coulonge, and not at the actual spot considerably to the west, namely the mouth of Muskrat River, the natural northern terminus of the portage. Again, as we read Parkman's account of the difficulties encountered in the portage here, we can feel no surprise at the unperceived loss, under the circumstances, of such articles as those ploughed up in 1867, in the