

APPENDIX
OF MANITOBA.

Sec. III.

Report of T.
K. Rainsay,
Q.C., March,
1873.

foreigner, even were he the leader of the expedition, would not alter its national character. However, no mystery attends the history of Jean Bourdon's voyage in 1656 (*note H*). The evidence is complete that neither ever reached Hudson's Bay. Albanel's (*note J*) journey again, is too late to affect the question, and trading with the Indians (*note K*) from other countries in Canada cannot give a title to their country.

13. The answer to the French to the early discoveries of Hudson, Button (*note L*) Fox, and James, is unfounded. In the work attributed to Champlain, already quoted, (1) the map published by "the English Captain" of his discoveries in 1612 is referred to in 1632. Purchas also saw this map, and Jeremie (2) speaks of the taking possession of Bourbon river by Nelson, and says that he planted a post on which he exposed the arms of England, and a great board on which a ship was drawn. He also left some trifling articles of which the Indians profited in the spring. Jeremie says, also, that the English returned the following year; but it is more probable that they wintered at the Bay, for there it is said Nelson died, and Button gave his name to the river they discovered. Again, Fox, when he went there in 1631, saw "quelques petits monumens du sejour que Thomas Button (y) avait autrefois," (3) In 1635 Luke Fox published "The North-West," with a map; and in 1633 James had already published his adventures with a map. James' work was republished in 1740.

14. We have therefore two English voyages of discovery (those of Hudson and Button) well authenticated, more than forty years before the voyage of Bourdon, of which there is no authentic mention till 1686, and then the account is evidently incorrect and written with a purpose. Fox and James' voyages to Hudson's Bay were both in 1661, the year of the pretended journey of Dablon, and two years previous to the totally authenticated journeys of Couture and Duquet. Again, the English Company was established and had built forts in 1670, whereas the Canadian Company did not begin its operations till 1682, and was not chartered till 1685. Whether then we consider priority of discovery, or discovery backed by actual acts of possession, the English claim to the country round Hudson's seems to be superior to that of the French (*note M*).

15. But it is still more worthy of note that the activity displayed by the French in the direction of Hudson's Bay dates from the time they heard that ships had been seen in the neighbourhood of the Bay (*note N*.) They learned this from some Algonquins (4), and they immediately became alarmed. The next year, 1671, Father Albanel was despatched with St. Cimon to take possession of the country anew. (5) It was only, however, in 1685 that the Canadian Company de la Baie du Nord was formed, (6) and the following year the Governor of Canada sent de Troyes and d'Iberville to attack the English posts in Hudson's Bay. (7) These attempts to recover lost time were such flagrant violations of international law, that the Governor was obliged to disavow the object he really had in view, and to pretext the desire to capture Radisson. (8) The excuse was a bad one, even if it had been true, and it would have been more to the purpose if he had said that the Treaty of Neutrality was not signed till the 16th November, 1686, and that his commission to de Troyes was dated the 12th February, 1686.

16. The effect of the Treaty of Neutrality (*note O*) was not, however, much felt in these out-of-the-way places, and the war between the English and French companies progressed while the Commissaries hunted up titles and exchanged statements of pretensions. Reciprocal complaints having been made, the French and English Commissaries met in London, but not being able to agree as to the facts, they adjourned until the first of January, 1689. (9) In the meantime the revolution took place, and William, profiting by the invasion of the Caribee Islands of the State of New York, and of the

(1) P. 8, note (3).

(2) Recueil de Voyages du Nord, p. 320.

(3) Discours prel, au Voyages du Nord, Vol. 1, p. xxxv.

(4) Talon to Colbert 10 Nov. 1670, Doc. Hist. 9, p. 67.

(5) Talon to the King 2nd Nov., 1671, *Ib.*, p. 71.

(6) Denonville on the state of Canada, 12th Nov., 1685, *Ib.*, p. 280.

(7) Instructions by de Denonville, 12th Feb., 1686, Paris, Doc. V. p. 176, 2 Serie.

(8) Denonville to Minster, 10th Nov., 1686, *Ib.*, p. 259.

(9) Instructions to de Frontenac, 7th June, 1689, Doc. Hist. 9, p. 422.