

it is said that Joliet and Marquet had taken formal possession of Lake Erie, "pour renouveler les prises de possession du Sr. de Champlain en 1612."

Now, if one may be allowed to contradict such great persons as Louis XIV and Colbert, I should say that they can either never have read Champlain, or they must have read him very carelessly, for there is hardly a statement in the passage quoted which is not incorrect. In 1611 Champlain sailed for Europe, about two months after he broke up his winter quarters at Quebec, and never ascended the river higher than Montreal; and in 1612 he never was in Canada at all. But even if we amend the date to 1615, the details are equally untrue. He did certainly (*after* his return from the Iroquois) visit the Petuns during the winter, who lived in the northern parts of the present counties of Grey and Bruce, and he mentions the Neuters as living further south, but he expressly says that he was dissuaded from visiting them. As to the Mascoutins, whom he had heard of under their Huron name of Asistagueronon or *Nation du feu*, they lived on Lake Michigan, of which he knew so little, that in his map, published seventeen years later, he makes it stretch away to the north, instead of to the south, of Lake Huron. Neither did he ever see Detroit or Lake Erie, and it is doubtful if he knew of the existence of the latter even by report, for in his map in 1632, he merely connects Lakes Huron and Ontario by a river.* The first certain

* In the note on the ancient geography of Canada, in the appendix to the Rev. P. Martin's translation of Bressani's Relation (Montreal, 1852), Champlain is quoted as an authority for the name *Lac Derié*. If the name occurs in his book, it has escaped me; it certainly is not to be found in his map. I suspect the compilers of that useful appendix have obtained the name, with that spelling, from the map of 1643, which professes to be *recueillie et dressée sur diverses relations modernes*. In the configuration of the country it is an exact copy of Champlain's map, but it contains some half a dozen new names, indicating increased geographical knowledge, and amongst them *Lac Derié* under the river which occupies its place. It must be from this map also, and not from Champlain's as quoted, that the compilers obtained the name *Kaoutotun* for the great Manitoulin Island.

From about 1640 Lake Erie was well known, though lying out of the usual track, and it is not very unfaithfully represented by Sanson in 1657, and by Ducreux in 1660; but there is, in the Parliamentary Library, a map of as late a date as 1664, said to contain *les terres nouvellement découvertes suivant les mémoires du P. du Val*, in which Lake Erie does not appear even by name; and