

that he was stationed at their post of Three Rivers, midway between Montreal and Quebec, and that he remained there till 1642, when, while on a business journey to the latter city, he was accidentally drowned." Thus Sulte proves an *alibi* for Nicolet. Until, then, some one can show Nicolet to have had divine ubiquity,—or as medievals believed of angels and devils, *ubiquity*, the power of being in two places at once,—he must be admitted to have discovered Wisconsin some five years before white men have been supposed to have shown themselves there. Doubtless it will add a cubit to the stature of every "Badger" to have five years thus added to the annals of his commonwealth.

Possibly it may turn out that they have still more reason to exult. Sulte's researches have made it out that Nicolet was domesticated as one of themselves among the Indians as early as 1618, at first on the Ottawa, half way to Lake Huron, and after two years in tribes bordering on that lake itself.

The "Badger" State was but one step further, and was a thoroughfare for a prehistoric commerce in Mexican shells etc., etc.

Since the impossible always happens, why may it not be demonstrated that Nicolet had explored Wisconsin even earlier than the year 1630,—that is, before the settlement of Boston itself? Wisconsin would have these five years added to her annals as gladly as any ancient maiden would have them subtracted from hers.

Sulte describes Nicolet as meeting the Wisconsin tribes in council of four thousand warriors, who feasted on six score of beavers. He appeared before them in a robe of state, adorned with figures of flowers and birds. Approaching with a pistol in each hand, he fired both at once. The astonished natives hence styled him "Thunder Bearer." This spectacular display was in keeping with the policy which marked the old French regime in two worlds, and which for two centuries proved equally sovereign in both.