

have, except from Indian sources. They reached at last the extreme western end of Ontario, and found welcome at an Indian village."

[This is the village called Otinaoutawa by Gallinée, and, according to Mr. B. E. Charlton, of Hamilton, who devoted much study to such subjects, "appears to have been situated on the borders of a small lake in the township of Nelson, about ten miles from Hamilton, known as Lake Medad, not far beyond Waterdown," where an Indian ossuary or bone pit, and other evidences of the site of a large Indian village, have been found. See Smith's 'Historical Sketch of the County of Wentworth,' pp. 34-36. Also 'Wentworth Landmarks,' published by the Spectator Printing Co., Hamilton, 1897; art., 'By Medad's Marshy Shores,' in which illustrations of Indian relics are given. I now continue Dr. Winsor's account of La Salle's adventures.]

"Here[at Otinaoutawa] La Salle came in contact with a prisoner from the Shawnee tribe held by these villagers, and this man told the French that it was a six weeks' journey from where they were to the great river, and that he could lead them there. It was contrived to make this fellow's captors offer him as a gift, and La Salle gladly accepted him.

"Just at this juncture, word came from a neighbouring village [Tinatona, see *infra*, note 4] that two Frenchmen had arrived there from the west. We must go back a little to account for their appearance.

"In February, 1669, Talon, who was then in France, informed Colbert that he had brought with him from Canada a young voyageur who felt confident of finding a way from Lake Huron either to the South Sea or to Hudson's Bay, and that the man had already gone to a greater distance west than any one else, and was ready to go still farther. This was Peré, a frequent figure in these western explorations, and when Talon shortly after returned to Canada, Peré was with him. With Colbert's countenance, the intendant was prepared to make new efforts to probe the secrets of the west. Plans were soon made, and Joliet, then at the settlements, together with Peré, was sent with the chief object of discovering the deposits of copper near Lake Superior, of which there had been many stories afloat. He was also expected to discover if there was not a way of bringing the ore to Quebec better than that by the Ottawa route, with its laborious portages. Colbert had not failed to make Talon understand that to discover and make merchantable at a profit such copper deposits was of more importance than to find any passage to the South Sea, and for some time after this Talon fed the ministerial cupidity with such stories as he could gather of huge lumps of copper lying exposed on the shores and islands of Lake Superior.

"It now turned out that the Frenchmen whom La Salle found to be in his vicinity were Joliet and his companion, on their return from this copper-seeking expedition. La Salle and Joliet were not long in establishing friendship, and the young explorer, who was not far from the age of La Salle, had much to say that interested the other. Joliet told these new friends about his journey, and though, as it seemed, he was not to carry back to the intendant any extravagant hopes about copper, he could tell him of a new way which he had opened for the growing communications with the west. He had descended the strait which led from Huron to Erie, and had for the first time followed eastward the northern shore of that lake. Fearing if he continued to its outlet by the Niagara River that he would encounter the Iroquois, Joliet had turned up the valley of the Grand River,—an affluent on its