

REPORT

ON THE

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

OF A PORTION OF

THE LAKE SUPERIOR LAND DISTRICT,

IN

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

INTRODUCTION.

*Historical sketch.—Raymbault and Jogues's voyage to Saut. Ste. Marie.—Rep. Mesnard visits Lake Superior.—Allouez follows.—Dablon and Marquette follow.—Grand Council.—Marquette proceeds to Green Bay.—Discovers the Mississippi.—His death.—Allouez's death.—Early map of this region.—Effect of the Missionary labors on the Indians.—Travels of Hennepin; Charlevoix; Henry; Mackenzie.—Expedition of General Cass; of Schoolcraft; of Maj. Long.—Dr. Houghton; his labors and death.—The treaties by which this district was ceded.—The several acts of the government in reference thereto.—The act authorizing the survey.—Its organization.*

The first steps towards the exploration of the country bordering on the great chain of North American lakes were taken by the Jesuits of Canada, more than two centuries ago, under the auspices of Count Frontenac, then governor general of that region.

On the 7th of September, 1641, Charles Raymbault and Isaac Jogues, two missionaries of the order of Jesus—an order whose memorials are to be found in every quarter of the habitable earth—accompanied by several Hurons, left the bay of Pentanguishene in a bark canoe for Saut Ste. Marie. At the head of this bay they had established a mission. It formed, at that time, the western terminus of the travelled route between Montreal and Lake Huron, by way of the Ottawa river and Lake Simcoe, and for years afterwards, while the power of France in the Northwest remained in the ascendant, constituted an important link in a chain of posts extending for more than two thousand miles.

The route of Raymbault and Jogues lay through the Georgian bay, and thence among the countless islands that stud the channel of the St. Mary's