

this early writer appears to have been obtained from the Indians, and it would seem he was not himself well versed in mineralogy. He says, referring to the south shore of the lake, "There are mines of copper which might be made profitable if there were inhabitants and workmen who would labor faithfully. About 80 or 100 leagues there is a mine of copper from which Truchment Brusle showed me an ingot on his return from a voyage to the neighboring station." This book, it must be remembered, was published thirty years before the advent of the Jesuit Fathers, Allouez, Mesnard, and Marquette, and the language of the author is such as to encourage the belief that there existed at the time to which he referred copper mines that were actually being wrought by the Indians, or, perhaps, by a last remnant of the ancient miner;" otherwise why should he have used the word "mines?" Nor could he have seen an ingot. It is much more probable that his "mines" were undeveloped lodes, and his "ingot" a mere boulder—the ancient miners must have been extinct thousands of years before according to archaeologists. "It is," says he, "pretended, also, that near Saguenay, gold rubies and other precious stones are found. I am assured that in the country of the Souriquois there are not only mines of copper, but also of steel; also certain blue transparent stones, which are as valuable as turquoises." He also says that "among the rocks they found many diamonds attached to the rocks—some of them appearing as if just from the hands of the lapidary, they were so beautiful. He was not sure, however, that they were fine, but they "were very handsome, and would write upon glass." And: "It seems that one might find mines of iron and many other mines, if one would take the trouble of searching and go to some expense. There is an abundance of limestone and other materials required for building."