

France" is given to that vast tract of country extending from the 30 to the 52 degree of N. lat. And in 1755 Bellin, who was "Ingénieur de la marine et du dépôt des Cartes Plans et Journaux et Censeur Royal," says "La Baie d'Hudson et les Pays voisins sont une grande étendue de côtes entre le 67 et le 51 degré de Latitude Septentrionale." (note D.)

APPENDIX
OF MANITOBA.
Sec. III.

Report of T.
K. Ramsay,
Q. C., March,
1873.

9. The question of priority of discovery of the Hudson's Bay, and of the territories on the confines of the rivers and bays connected with the Hudson's Bay, does not appear to be in favour of French pretensions. If discovery alone is to convey a title to either nation, the French pretensions must fail.

10. It is not denied (note E) that Hudson discovered the bay which bears his name, (1) and that he wintered there in 1610-11. In the following year, Button, following in the path already traced by Hudson, discovered Nelson River, which he named after his pilot, who died during the expedition, and he passed the winter of 1612-13 in the bay. It would seem the failure of these discoverers, in their main object, to find a north-west passage, discouraged further enterprise in this direction, and (2) "the business slept from 1616 to 1631," while their attention was turned towards the South. In 1631 Luke Fox went and wintered at Nelson River. James wintered in the Bay in 1631-32 (note F.) In 1667 or 1668, Gillam, with Des Grozeliars and Radisson, (note G) went to Hudson's Bay and established himself at Rupert's river. On his return to England a Company was formed which, under the name of "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay," obtained from Charles II. the famous Charter bearing date the 2nd May, 1670.

In the same year the Company sent out an expedition to make a permanent establishment, with Mr. Bailey as Governor, and Fort Nelson was founded as the principal post.

11. The French meet this, without denying the early discoveries of Hudson, Button, Fox, and James, by saying (3) that possession of unknown countries must be taken by some formal act, such as planting the arms of the King who claims a title to it; that those travellers have left no account of their discoveries, and consequently it is not established that they ever took possession of the countries they are said to have visited, in the name of their Sovereign. They further pretend that in 1656 Jean Bourdon sailed from Quebec and took possession of the Baie du Nord, and that this is proved by the register of the Council of New France of the 26th August, 1656. That in 1661 the Indians of the North Bay came expressly to confirm the good understanding between them and the French, and asking for a Missionary, and that Father Dablon went there in the same year. That there were expeditions of Couture and Duquet in 1663; and that the expedition at Gillam was led there by rebellious subjects, who could convey no title, and that the very fact of Des Grozeliars and Radisson being able to lead the English Captain Gillam there, shows that they had themselves been there before, and consequently had acquired the territory for the King. The French then proceed to relate the voyage of De Lauson to Sault Ste Marie in 1671, and his formal taking possession in the name of the King of France with the consent of seventeen nations, among whom were the Indians from Hudson's Bay. They also insist on the voyage of P. Albanel and St. Cimon in 1671-72.

12. This is an unfortunate answer. It either goes too far or not far enough. To get over Hudson's and Button's discoveries, it cuts off the expeditions of Couture and Duquet, of which there are no formal records. The same may be said of the overland expedition of Des Grozeliars and Radisson. Prior to the voyage of Gillam in company with them, there is no record whatever of Des Grozeliars and Radisson ever having been at Hudson's Bay, nor is it even now said in what year they were there. It is a mere rumour, in no way proved by their conducting Gillam to Hudson's Bay. The experience derived from an overland journey, even if it had taken place, could not have aided them in a voyage by sea. Again, if anything were to be drawn from the quality of these two adventurers as Frenchmen, by parity of reasoning, we should have to deprive Spain of the results of Columbus' discoveries. The presence of a

(1) Map in Gottfriedt, 1655. Charlevoix 1, p. 476, Gervais 1, p. 139.

(2) Ogilby's America, published 1671. French and English discoveries in America, Doc. Hist. 9, p. 1. Supposed to be written by Champlain, Am. Ed. note.

(3) See Memoir de Caillieres to M. Seignelay, 25th February, 1685, P.M.S. III., p. 1, and memoir of 8th Nov. 1686. Is it y Danonville? See note signed Louis and lower down Colbert, Doc. Hist. 9, 303.