

but they are all treasured far beyond its borders, and I fear will be for a long time. One is the original manuscript of Marquette, detailing his journey across Wisconsin and down the Mississippi, which was written at Green Bay in the winter of 1673-4. *This writing is in the College of St. Mary at Montreal.* The second memorial is Joliet's notes on the same journey, written on his return to France in 1674, and preserved in the seminary of St. Sulpice at Paris. The other two are maps,—both preserved in Parisian Archives,—one is of Lake Superior, drawn up in 1671; the other, dating from 1679, "*shows the Messipi from 49° to 42°, where the Miscon-sing comes in,*" according to an inscription upon it.

Fragments of French arms, and other metallic, glass, or earthen articles, doubtless exist in the northwest, that are older than the sacred silver of Perrot. But none known to me can be procured of so great antiquity, for none of them bear dates that are tell-tales of their age. In Ottawa, (Ill.) I saw a bronze cross picked up at the foot of Starved Rock, and called Marquette's. But it bears no date. There is another of silver that was found at Green Bay, and presented long ago to our State Historical Society, But how old it is no one knows, or can know.

Some other dated native offering to the La Pointe or Green Bay missions even before 1686 may possibly come to light, But aside from such an improbable windfall, it seems impossible that any antiquarian discovery this side of the pre-historic period, either in Wisconsin, or, indeed, out of it, in all the length and breadth of the Mississippi valley, can ever be made that shall rival as a work of art, as a religious relic, and above all as a historical memorial, the silver ostensorium of Nicolas Perrot. With good reason, then, has Wisconsin fostered her Historical Society till it is pre-eminent throughout the West. It had the most precious memorials to enshrine.

J. D. BUTLER.

Madison, July 22, 1878.