

In consequence of this, from the time when Father Menard, the devoted Jesuit missionary, was lost in the forest in 1658 while crossing *Kee-wee-nah* Peninsula, and his sad fate conjectured only from his cassock and breviary, long afterward found preserved as "Medicine" charms, among the wild Dakotas of our territory, down to the time when Schoolcraft, in 1832, traced our giant Mississippi—a giant more wonderful than the hundred-armed Briareus—to its origin in the gushing fountains of Itasca lake, Minnesota has continued a favorite field of research.

Here Hennepin in 1680, was first to break the silence of these northern wilds with a white man's voice, in giving to the foaming waters of St. Anthony's falls, their baptismal name in honor of his patron saint. Here was the scene of his captivity among the M'day-wah-kaun-twan Dakotas, and here he experienced the compassion and protection of *Wah-zee-koo-tay*, the great Nahdawessy chief.

Here too, not very long afterward, Baron La-Hontan, journeyed; and in this territory, that romance of geography, his *La Longue Riviere*, had its location and due western course—the creature of La-Hontan's imagination, or rather of truth and fable curiously interwoven and intermingled.

More reliable than either, the gallant Le Sueur, a brave, enterprising, and truthful spirit, in 1700 explored the *sky-colored water* of the St. Peter's to its Blue Earth tributary, and in the vicinity of his log fort L'Hullier, on the banks of the *Mahn-kahto*, first broke the virgin soil of our territory with the spade and pick-axe, in delving for copper ore, tons of which, or a green earth supposed to be the ore of that metal, he had conveyed to his native France. He it was, also, who appears to have been the first white man or trader, that supplied the "Sioux" and "Aiiavvis" (Ioways) with fire-arms and other products of civilized labor; and to his truthful and generally accurate Journal, we are likewise indebted for the best statistics we possess of the early history of the Dakota race, which then, fully a century and a half ago, as now, occupied the greater portion of our territory.

Following Le Sueur, after a considerable interval, came Cap