

covered? or into the hands of the Indian with whom it was buried?" Conjectures are free for every one. and so I will state mine,—which seems to me the more plausible the more I consider it.

The Spanish medal, as I think, was presented to Huisconsin, or Mitasse, chiefs of the Sauks and Foxes, on the 20th of November, 1781, and in St. Louis, by the Spanish Governor, Don Francisco Cruzat. If this opinion is correct, its subsequent history is plain enough, as the Sauks then lived on the Lower Wisconsin, in the very region where the puzzling find was made.

What ground is there for this opinion?

The Wisconsin chiefs were visiting the Spanish dignitary, as stated above, were treated by him with marked attention, and they carried home to their tribes a letter from him, claiming authority over them, and giving them orders. This letter is still extant and treasured in the MS. archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society. It was printed in their collections (Vol. III., p. 504.) Now, it was the habit of colonial Governors to give a medal to every chief with whom they formed an alliance. Whoever accepted a medal acknowledged the giver as his liege lord. The whole tenor of Cruzat's letter shows that it was natural for him to hang medals around the necks of the representatives of those to whom he wrote.

A few more words regarding the custom of giving medals and its significance may serve to thicken other proofs that rather thinly demonstrate the reasonableness of my faith concerning the Spanish medal. As soon as the United States had purchased the northwest from Napoleon, Lieut. Pike was despatched up the great river to assert American authority, and that in part by demanding the surrender of foreign medals. He secured quite a number, some of them lately presented to Indians by British agents. He exacted promises from such agents that they would on no other occasion make such presentations. [See his journal, p. 82, and appendix, pp. 4, 8, 11, 15, 21-29, etc.]