

had passed through the Straits of Mackinac.\* The war of extermination† that the Iroquois had waged against the Hurons had made the country between the Ottawa and Lake Huron extremely dangerous alike to the fur trader and the Indian. The trade, intermittent at best, was in the hands of the Indians who, as it was to transpire, met their brethren near the shores of Green Bay and purchased from them the peltries that they ran through the Iroquois blockade on the Ottawa, and exchanged at the French markets on the St. Lawrence. Familiar, doubtless, with the travels and the financial success of his townsman, Nicolet, Groseilliers planned to follow in his path; and his familiarity with the Huron country (from which he had last returned but a few months before) made this plan the most feasible one he could adopt.

About the middle of June, 1658,‡ Groseilliers and Radisson set out from Three Rivers "to discover the great lakes that they had heard the wild men speak of." Besides the Indians returning from the fur market, there

\* It is possible that some information may yet transpire to disclose the identity of the two fur traders who, according to the Relation of 1655, made a voyage of five hundred leagues to the northwest in their "gondolas of bark," and it is possible that, as Winsor says, (Cartier to Frontenac, p. 180), they penetrated the country beyond Lake Michigan. It is probable, however, that had they made so extended a voyage some definite account of their travels would have been made. Neither the Jesuits nor the government overlooked such explorations. Radisson says that Groseilliers was familiar with the great lakes; but the context shows that his personal knowledge was confined to the eastern shores of Georgian Bay. Suite's conjecture that Groseilliers and Radisson were the traders referred to seems to me unwarranted.

† Parkman's Jesuits in North America, p. 411 et seq.

‡ Radisson says that he and Groseilliers started northward about the middle of the June after his return from Onondaga. For a most ingenious discussion of the Groseilliers-Radisson chronology, see an article by Henry Colin Campbell in the American Historical Review, Vol. I, No. 2. Mr. Campbell argues that Groseilliers and Radisson were the two Frenchmen mentioned in the Relations of 1660 as having returned that year, after having spent the winter on Lake Superior, that Radisson made but one trip to Lake Superior and that this one ended in 1660.