

Alloüez, Marquette, and Jogues were remarkable men, and, had their lots been cast in a different sphere, they would have left a more durable impress upon the age in which they lived. Their efforts to win the tribes of the Northwest to the standard of the cross, prosecuted with great zeal; and under circumstances of privation and suffering, may be regarded as abortive.

There is something impressive in the rites of the Catholic church—something in its mysteries calculated to overawe the wild men of the woods. So long as the missionary was in their midst and superintended their labors, they yielded to his guidance and adopted his recommendations, so far at least as conduced to their comfort; but when he withdrew, with equal facility they glided into their former habits. The superstructure raised with so much care fell to the ground the moment the sustaining hand was withdrawn. The effect of the contact of the two races has been to afford the Indian additional incentives to vice, while his intellectual and moral elevation has been little advanced; and at this day, it cannot be said that he stands higher in the scale of civilization than when first known by the white man.

Such knowledge as we possess with regard to the early discoveries in the Northwest is derived from the "*Relations de ce que s'est passé de plus remarquable aux Missions des pères de la compagnie de Jesus en la Nouvelle France.*" They are comprised in many volumes, to be found in the library of Harvard College.

The occurrence of native copper naturally excited the wonder of the first voyageurs, and the references to it are numerous. The first mention is made in the Relation for 1659-'60. An Indian, named Awatanick, who had passed from Green Bay to Lake Superior the year previously, reported "that its borders were enriched with lead mines, and copper of such excellent quality that it is already reduced in pieces as large as the fist. There may also be seen rocks which contain large veins of turquoise," (green silicate of copper.)

The relator adds that he has heard of the existence of gold on St. Joseph's island, and that the rivers of Lake Superior bring down grains of gold.

Another relator states that diamonds occur on some of the islands at the foot of Green Bay.

In the Relation for 1669-'70, Father Dablon says: "We have learned from the savages some secrets which they did not wish at first to communicate, so that we were obliged to use some artifice. We do not, however, vouch for everything contained in the following account. After entering the lake, the first place met with containing copper is an island about forty or fifty leagues from the Saut, towards the north shore, opposite a place called Missipicootong, (Michipicoten.) The savages relate that it is a floating island, being sometimes near and at others afar off. A long time ago four savages landed there, having lost their way in a fog, with which the island is frequently surrounded. It was previous to their acquaintance with the French, and they knew nothing of the use of kettles and hatchets. In cooking their meals, as is usual among the savages, by heating stones and casting them into a birch bark pail containing water, they found that they were almost all copper. After having completed their meal, they hastened to re-embark, for they were afraid of the lynxes and hares, which here grow to the size of dogs. They took with

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