

V.—*Radisson in the Northwest, 1661-63.*

By B. SULTE.

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Summary:—In 1661 Radisson ascends the Ottawa (not the St. Lawrence), proceeds to Sault Ste. Marie, thence to the bay of Chagouamigon. He spends the winter (1661-62) at Mille Lacs, amongst the Sioux Beef Nation. During the summer of 1662 he goes to James Bay, and, on his return, passes the winter of 1662-63 at Chagouamigon. In the spring of 1663 he makes known to the Assiniboines that he cannot visit their country, much though he regrets not to see the lake that they say is greater than Lake Superior. He declares to the people of Chagouamigon that he has told the Indians of James Bay of his intention to go to them again by the Atlantic Ocean, as they occupy the country of the beaver, *par excellence*. Radisson departs to descend to Quebec, through Sault Ste. Marie, Lake Nipissing and the River Ottawa.

This is the *Fourth Voyage* of Pierre-Esprit Radisson,* in which I find that the author and his brother-in-law Chouart reached Hudson Bay by land, starting from Lake Superior. Here is his own text:

"We stayed att home att rest that yeare (1660). . . . The spring following we weare in hopes to meet with some company, having ben so fortunate the yeare before. Now, during the winter, whether it was that my brother¹ revealed to his wife what we had seen in our voyage and what we further intended, or how it came to passe, it was known; so much that the ffather Jesuits weare desirous to find out a way how they might gett downe the castors from the bay of the north by the Saegnes, and so make themselves masters of that trade. They resolved to make a tryall as soone as the ice would permitt them. So to discover our intentions they weare very earnest with me to ingage myselfe in that voyage, to the end that my brother would give oyer his, which I uterly denied them, knowing that they could never bring it about, becaus I heard the wild men say that although the way be easy, the wildmen² that are feed att their doors would have hindred them, because they make a livelyhood of that trade. . . . Nevertheless the ffathers are gone³ with the Governor's son⁴ of the three rivers and 6 other ffrench and 12 wildmen.

"During that time we made our proposition to the governor of Quebec that we weare willing to venture our lives for the good of the