

Nicollet, it is admitted, was west of Lake Michigan before La Salle was born. What brought him thus early into the heart of the continent?

My answer is that he came for sport; yes, just for the fun of the thing — or the romance and exhilaration of adventure.

Where is the community in which it is not proverbial to this day that worlds of fun lie in camping? What amount of civilization can kill off love for a feast of tabernacles, or relish for camp-meetings? What boy reads Robinson Crusoe without a passion to run away? Hunting, fishing, boating, discovering new lakes and streams, new varieties of woodland and opening, attacking or eluding antagonists — whether men or beasts — fire, frost, flood, famine; "foemen worthy of their steel," for what man that is young, strong and brave, must not these excitements have charms? When will the English give up their Alpine club? In France no man was more of a sportsman than the King, Louis XIV, and in his era especially, French country gentlemen spent most of their time hunting and fishing. Accordingly for the French those pursuits had dignified associations. The first French party that ever wintered on the shore of Lake Erie thus wrote home, more than two centuries ago: "We were in a terrestrial paradise. Fish and beaver abounded. We saw more than a hundred roebucks in a single band, and half as many fawns. Bear's meat was more savory than any pork in France. We dried or buccaned the meat of the nine largest. The grapes were as large and sweet as any at home. We even made wine. No lack of prunes, chestnuts and *lotus* fruit all the autumn. None of us were homesick for Montreal." Far west was the happy hunting ground of Indian fable. There too the French found it in fact.

The late Judge Baird of Green Bay used to describe as the happiest three weeks of his life, the time when, taking his family and friends, with a crew of Indian oarsmen, he voyaged in a bark canoe from our great lake to our great river, along the track of Joliet and Marquette. Every day the ladies gathered flowers as fair as Proserpine plucked in the field of Enna, while the men were never without success as fishers and hunters. They camped, usually early in the afternoon, wherever inclination was attracted by natural beauty or romantic appearance. After feasting on