

ed, and presented, especially from the water, a very picturesque appearance. The great importance of this point sprang from its position, which enabled it to command largely Indian trade and influence.

At *Mackinac*, Father MARQUETTE established a mission as early as 1671. A fort was erected on the point of the lower peninsula in 1686. There was at this time, within the pickets, about 30 families, and as many more without, numbering, perhaps, a population of about 400. This too, was an important point with reference to the Indian trade.

Sault St. Mary had been visited by missionaries as early as 1641, and a permanent mission was established in 1668, but it was now a very insignificant military post, surrounded by a small cluster of French houses.

Green Bay was occupied as a missionary station in 1669. At this period it had a small stockade fort, and probably not to exceed 50 inhabitants besides soldiers and their families.

Fort St. Joseph was a small stockade near the mouth of the river St. Joseph, and, like the others, had around it a small cluster of French settlers and traders.

The same may be said of Fort Miami, (Fort Wayne).

Fort Sandusky was not a permanent post, and had no settlement around it.

SETTLEMENTS UPON THE WABASH.

The two principal settlements on the Wabash, were Vincennes—then called Fort St. Vincent, and Waw-ca-ta-non, near Lafayette. According to CROGHAN, there were at Vincennes in 1765, about 80 or 90 French families, and at Waw-ca-ta-non, 14 families living within the Fort, and there were doubtless some small intervening settlements.

These settlements on the Wabash were commenced probably, as early as 1710-11, and seem at one time to have been rich in agricultural productions, which found a market down the Mississippi.

SETTLEMENTS IN ILLINOIS.

The largest settlements in the North-West, were those of Illinois, of which Kaskaskia was the oldest and the principal. In 1766 it had 65 permanent families.