

trade, an occupation for which he had decided talent. He prospered, bought land, married (1647) for his first wife a daughter of that Abraham Martin who gave name to the Plains of Abraham, and assumed the name of "Sieur des Groseilliers." Groseilliers, as he was afterwards called, was living at Three Rivers in 1651, when Peter Esprit Radisson, a youth of adventurous disposition, came to that frontier settlement from St. Malo. During the following year, Radisson was captured by the Iroquois, from whom he escaped to the Dutch at Fort Orange, and was by them sent to Holland, whence he made his way back to Three Rivers. On his return, in 1654, he found that during his absence Groseilliers (whose first wife had died in 1651) had married his sister, an event which was to link their fortunes for life; and two years later Radisson himself is supposed to have married. If so, married life involved no hostage to fortune; and from a chance remark of his it would seem that his affections were bestowed impartially on his own wife and on the wives of his neighbors. Love of adventure seems to have been his ruling motive, and when in 1657 the Iroquois, beset by foes from the southwest, found it for their advantage to make peace with the French, Radisson made one of the party that accompanied the Jesuits to the newly founded Onondaga mission. The mission was so much of a failure that it was secretly abandoned on the night of March 20, 1658. Returning to Three Rivers, Radisson found his brother-in-law planning an extended journey to the upper lakes, an expedition for which the times were made propitious by the fact that, comparatively speaking, the Iroquois were occupied elsewhere.

During the twenty-one years that had elapsed since Nicolet returned from Lake Michigan, no Frenchmen