



**LIBRARIES**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Notes.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/VGJXV3RQNNQ6FD8D>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.



## Notes

I. Perrot formed a series of alliances with the tribes in the country about which laid the foundation for the French sovereignty in the Northwest. He discovered the lead mines on the Mississippi and built several forts on this river, at one of which he took possession for the King of France, of all the country of the Sioux. He had been Jesuit, then taught and then joined the Sulpitians of Montreal. When the tribes were on the verge of war he would go to mediate. He fired his gun and the natives thought he was a visitant from the sun. At one time he tried to calm their resentment by sacrificing himself. "Put me in your kettles", he demanded, "and satiate yourself with the flesh you have wanted." Whereupon the Indian orator said "What son will eat his own father, from whom he has received life? Thou has given us birth, since thou has brought us the first iron." In autumn, 1688 Perrot reached his post on Lake Pepin. The Sioux had appropriated some French goods which they refused to return. Perrot set about to teach them a lesson. Pouring some brandy into a cup, he set it on fire, telling them he would set their lakes and marshes afire in the same manner, if they did not return the stolen goods.

II. Pond describing Prairie du Chien: "Planes of the Dogs, the grate place of rendezvous for the traders and Indians ... This plane is a Very Hansum one ... All the traders that Youseis that Part of the Country & all the Indians of several tribes West fall and Spring where the Greatest Games are Plaid Both by French & Indians. The French practis Billiards - ye latter Ball. Hear the botes from New Orleans cum. They are navigated by thirty Six men who row as many oarse. They bring in a Boate Sixty Hogseats of Wine on one ... besides tham, cheese & c - all to trad with the French & Indians .... There was not less than One Hundred and thirty Canoes which came from Mackinaw Caring from Sixty to Eightey. Hundred wate appease all made of Birch Bark and white Seder for the Ribs ...."

III. The Griffon, the first commercial vessel in the new world, sailed down the Lakes, starting below Niagara - 60 ft. long, 45 tons burden, 5 small cannon looking out from her portholes. Down to Green Bay, loaded with furs and went out never to be seen again. There was no vessel again for 100 years. *(a model of the Griffon in the Museum.)*

IV. Corundum is a primary aluminum mineral found in metamorphosed limestones and in schists. Hexagonal crystals common. Corundum also occurs as dark granules with magnetite - a form known as emery and used as an abrasive tho by now there is a synthetic abrasive called carborundum. Asbestos, mined or quarried from serpentine is also a Canadian product.



2

V. Taconite is a low grade ore or a rock with a little iron in it after the iron has been removed. Taconite plants take the small amount of iron out of the ore and the residue is used for gravel. This was an outlet for the immense red piles standing at the mining places, a gainful commercial undertaking. Silver Bay and Taconite Harbor were to come up as we got down a little farther along the lake shore.

VI. Knife Lake lying on State 65 was the rendezvous of Radisson and Grosseilliers and small bands of Chippewa, Huron and Ottawa Indians, following the Frenchmen's wintering along Lake Superior. A great feast was held which many Sioux attended; the lake is said to have been so named because Radisson gave them the first steel knives any had ever seen.

the 17th century at an earlier date than Radisson. Another story of ~~that era~~ - ~~once again, a scout for Champlain,~~ ~~altho after awhile he went over to the British.~~ - Brulé, the first white man, in fact, to see Lake Superior. And once again, a scout for Champlain, altho after awhile he went over to the British. Along about 1610 he was among the 200 Indians who paddled their canoes in orderly formation down the Ottawa River to meet Champlain at the rapids of Montreal. Brulé got on handsomely with the Indians. I don't remember what biographer it was said, "He dressed in their clothes, ate their vile mess, and thrived on it." However - perhaps inevitable in that early time, he was murdered by his Huron friends.

*earlier  
even than  
Marquette*

~~VII. Minnesota means "land of the sky-tinted waters".~~

*VII* Ore of the Vermilion Range was deposited when lava flowed thru Archaen rock; more than a million years later the earth bulged and threw up a mountain range reaching from n.w. Minn. n.e. into Canada and on into the region of Quebec.

Knobs of granite and gneiss (Ortonville and Big Stone City and near Sapanga Lake).

The great schists of St. Louis and Itasca Counties are lava flows changed by the mountain-building process.

VIII. Pictured Rocks, 12 miles in extent, in Doty's words: "graywacke, or sand and pebbles cemented by lime; and the minerals and other matter between the strata have run out, and given the rocks various and very singular colours. A green like that running from copper is seen in several places. The appearance of iron is more frequent. These rocks are generally from 2 to 300 feet high. They present the most appalling spectacle I ever witnessed. From the deep caverns underneath a roar like that of cannon is continually reverberated, occasioned by the waves rolling in. In passing along under them the sensations exceed those excited on viewing the Cataract of Niagara."

They named an arch the Doric Arch, bearing resemblance to that architecture.

"The Chocolate river is 15 miles from the laughing fish



river and three miles farther is the river of the dead, a little below Presque Isle. Iron pirites [Al thinks he means pyrites]... found on this stream." Farther on - "Large, confused masses of granite ... interspersed with hornblende", all peaks thrown up by some volcanic eruption, it seemed. Garlic river. Portage Lake - "This morn I rose at 4, and walking on the shore of the lake found several fine specimens of carnelian and agate." Next morning to River Ontomagan - "having sailed 51 miles before breakfast! Breakfast was at noon, tho this kind of milage is undoubtedly very good. Passed Graveyard's River, where the traer, Graveyard, had been murdered. Granite on top of the mountains based with red sandstone. So many pigeons at Point Chegeoiamegon (he must have meant Chequamegon?) and flying so low that all the men had to do ~~was~~ to kill them was to throw clubs and sticks up into the flocks as they passed.

At Grand Portage on the river Brule "at the end of the second pause on the bank of the river was a strata of breccia." (Fragmentary stuff - cinders, ash or quartz) "It lay at an acute angle shelving towards the river." <sup>finally</sup> When they ~~at~~ got everything across the portage "for all which we were blessing our stars over a piece of ham and a good dish of chocolate."

Walter Havighurst in his book The Long Ships Passing speaks of Munising Bay and the effect the rocky caverns had on the Indians. "Sailing their birchbark fleets past Grand Portal, the Chippewas threw gifts of venison and deerskin into the mysterious grottos. Even the French, bringing shrewd trade and new gospel to the savage, felt the power of mythology. Many a voyageur crossed himself and tossed a twist of tobacco into the great portal (Grand Portal) as his canoe passed under the cliffs of legend."

More on Pictured Rocks by a <sup>knowledgeable</sup> present day - 25 miles of Cambrian sandstone red, gray and white facing the lake, with a thousand shapes. Stratified and hardened through the ages. Gets its many colors from the soluble mineral oxides which the waves and the rains have dissolved and used to tint the formations of the escarpment. Beating of storms and assault of waves make strange hollows big enough for ships to pass thru.

IX. Nicollet, a gifted French mathematician and astronomer and author of a treatise on the mathematics of life insurance, appeared at Fort Snelling in 1836 and won friends, his learning, worn modestly and his manner charming. charm of manner. He gave credit to Schoolcraft for discovery of Lake Itasca but he determined latitude, longitude, and height above sea level. He was not unconscious of the spectacle he presented while trudging across a portage - "I carried my sextant on my back, in a leather case, thrown over me as a knapsack; then my barometer slung over left shoulder; my cloak, thrown over the same shoulder, confined the barometer closely against the sextant; a portfolio under the arm; a basket in hand, which contained my thermometer, pocket-



4  
compass, artificial horizon, tape-line etc. etc. On the right side a spy-glass, powder flask, and shot bag; and in my hand, a gun or an umbrella ..."

X. ~~HOWSTLING LAKE~~ <sup>probably</sup> ~~Smashere~~ This meeting took place in the St. Peter's (Minnesota River) Valley. Schoolcraft records that a party of Indians came from Rainy Lake but had recently resided at Springing Bow-String Lake. "The chief had heard the Americans say 'Peace, Peace.' But he thought that advice resembled a rushing wind. It was strong and went soon. It did not abide long enough to choke up the road." He said also he believed it had been intended by the Creator that his people should be at war with the Sioux ... He complained of the exclusion of ardent spirits" He mentions in these notes that a fine gun, worth ten guineas was sold to a chief at one of the northern posts for 120 lbs. of beaver, say \$480. At this treaty meeting (or ~~was it at another time?~~ <sup>a Sunday</sup>) meeting, an Indian companion and a pipelighter to a chief "a very tall, gaunt and savage-looking warrior, who appeared to be made up, body and mind, of sensualities. And although he appeared to be quiet and passive, and uttered not a single expression that implied passion or vindication, I could not divest my mind of the recollection that I was in company with the murderer of Gov. Semple."

Schoolcraft's definition of an Indian: "A man spending his time painfully to catch a beaver, or entrap an enemy, without stores of thought, without leisure, with nothing often to eat and nothing to put on but tatters and rags, and withal the whole Anglo-Saxon race treading on his toes and burning out his vitals with ardent spirits."

Of Vermilion Lake, Schoolcraft noted: "Birch and aspen with pines in the distance. Tamarack a frequent tree on the shores, and the pond lily, flag and Indian reed, appear in the stream."

One night, resting on the bank after a trip ~~of~~ <sup>over</sup> dangerous rapids, he speaks of sleep soon overshadowing the whole party "'with his downy pinions'". He mentions Deer Lake, so named by him and his companions because one of the men shot a deer here. Sibly Lake had already been named 'Lake which the River passes through one End of'. He says the eye is always searching for something new, some novelty, an immediate passion. "The 'lightning splintered' pine which raises its dead arms, and the living foliage .... the waterfowl with a tuft, or the shell with a deep cicatrice or a pearly interior ..."

He praises the men - "the working crew set up a tent with its furniture in no time at all - he who would travel fast over an intricate interior route and be well served on the way, should not fail to prepare himself with a canoe allège and a crew of voyageurs. They will not only go when they are bid to go but they will go uncomplainingly. And after submitting to the severe labor, both of the night and day, on land and water, they are not only ready for further efforts, but will make them, under the enlivening influence of a song."







6

a large kettle and place it over a fire. A hand of tobacco was then put in. After being heated and stirred about for a time, the mixture was drunk."

XIV. George Catlin, painter, went west to Minnesota in the early 1800's. He and a companion traveled far and wide thru that country. "We are two poor men, traveling to see the Sioux, and to shake hands with them..." He visited the quarries where the Indians found the clay for their pipes. The Red Pipe Quarry was described as "a perpendicular wall of close-grained compact quartz, of 25 and 30 feet in elevation ... stratified in several distinct layers of light grey, and rose or flesh colour quartz ... in any and all parts of which the Indians procure the red stone for their pipes, by digging through the soil and several slaty layers ... to the depth of 4 or 5 feet." ~~He~~ Catlin took a sample of the stone (defying the Indians because they considered their pipestone quarries sacred) and sent it east. It got the name catlinite.

Frank Mayer came in 1850 to observe and paint Indians. The squaws' feet, despite all the work they did, remained for him as beautiful as those of the Venus of Medici.

Young C. G. Myrick wrote his family in Vermont just after he settled in La Sueur in the Minnesota Valley - "There has been a good deal said about the beauty and danger of a prairie on fire, but most of this is in the imagination ... I have seen boys run more risk in running through a pile of burning shavings ... The flame shoots up more like a flash than a flame and when it passed it leaves no fire behind nothing but ashes." He described a fire that overtook a friend - "On he goes but faster rushes the fire and soon overtakes him, and passes by, simply scorching his whiskers and some hair from his horse. So much for the poetry of a prairie on fire." There may have been criticism of Myrick's account in places where ~~it would~~ a fire would show up to be more dangerous.

At Traverse des Sioux in the 80's lived for a time Edward Eggleston who was writing The Hoosier Schoolmaster - he was a young minister ~~for~~ the first post-treaty rush of migration. To support himself while writing his book he made soap on week days and sold it as he walked the river trails in search of converts. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ He met his wife at Traverse.

Old Mrs. Thorne remembering the first days of wheat-raising in the Minnesota Valley - "The floor was just the ground. Over it we put a layer of wild hay and then staked a rag carpet over it. A puncheon shelf to put my trunk under, and the furniture placed, made a home that I was more than satisfied with ... My baby was born three weeks after we moved in. There was no doctor within a hundred miles. I got through, helped only by my sister-in-law. What do women nowadays, with your hospitals and doctors, know of a time like this?" The whole family went to town to

225 91.800



7

have the wheat ground into flour. They put the sacks in the bottom of the wagon, then our feather beds on top of them. The children were put on these. She spelled her husband driving and it took 40 hours. to get to the mill. "The moonlight with the shadows of the clouds on the prairie, was magnificent. We never saw a human being." And "When we got home we had a regular jubilation over that flour. Twenty of the neighbors came in to help eat it. They were crazy for the bread. I made three loaves of salt rising bread and they were enormous, but we never got a taste of them."

Hastings on the Mississippi - The packet Chippewa Falls, when light, drew only 12 inches. One day in the low water of 1864 she grounded on a bar below Hastings, and after a few minutes she floated free. The pilot said he had shifted his quid of tobacco.

At Mininger, Minnesota, is rather famous as the home of Ignatius Donnelly (1831-1901) politician and author of The Great Cryptogram which attempted to prove that Lord Bacon was the author of Shakespeare's plays.

Hinkley was in the center of the raging forest fire of 1894 when more than 400 persons lost their lives. The hero of the disaster was Northern Pacific's engineer, Jim Root, who backed his train thru a wall of flames and on over the burning Grindstone Creek bridge all the way to Duluth. He saved 350 lives but his hands were burned fast to the throttle. At the side of Hinkley is Monument to the Fire Victims.

2  
Not to mention the <sup>cholera</sup> plague that came from the plains of the Indies by way of ships down the Mississippi. And the locust disaster in the wheat fields.

At Moose Lake is - or was - a stone varying from pink to dark red, used thruout the mid-west in building construction.

Mound Springs State Park - a massive bluff of quartzite about 3 miles long. Indians used to drive herds of buffalo over it to their death.

Havighurst on axle grease - this item became an unknown luxury. The caravan fur traders of the Red River country made a terrific screeching that could be heard 3 miles away. When the carts were within half that distance their racket was frightening - two hundred greaseless wheels.



Short outline - Rocks

rock - solid matter composed of one or more minerals forming the earth's crust.

Rocks are divided into 3 major classes: igneous rocks formed by cooling of molten material from earth's interior (e. g. granite, obsidian, basalt, pumice); sedimentary rocks often called stratified rock, are consolidated fragments of older rocks, (forming shale, sandstone, conglomerate) or lime rocks made of cemented shells or by products or remains of sea animals; metamorphic rocks have been changed by heat and pressure (slate, schist, gneiss, marble, quartzite).