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HISTORY.

TRAVELS THROUGH THE INTERIOR PARTS OF NORTH-AMERICA, IN THE Years, 1766, 1767, and 1768.

By J. CARVER, ESQUIRE.

IN June 1766, I set out from Boston, and proceeded, by way of Albany and Niagara, to Michillimackinac, a fort situated between the lakes Huron and Michigan, distant from Boston 1300 miles. This being the uttermost of our factories towards the North-West, I considered it as the most convenient place from whence I could begin my intended progress, and enter at once into the regions I designed to explore.

Referring my reader to the publications already extant for an account of those parts of North-America, that, from lying adjacent to the Back-Settlements, have been frequently described, I shall confine myself to a description of the more interior parts of it, which having been but seldom visited, are consequently but little known. In doing this, I shall in no instance exceed the bounds of truth, or have recourse to those useless and extravagant exaggerations too often made use of by travellers, to excite the curiosity of the public, or to increase their own importance. Nor shall I insert any observations but such as I have made myself, or, from the credibility of those by whom they were related, am enabled to vouch for their authenticity.

Michillimackinac, from whence I began my travels, is a fort composed of a long stockade, and is usually defended by a garrison of one hundred men. It contains about thirty houses, one of which belongs to the governor, and another to the commissary. Several traders dwell within its fortifications, who find it a convenient situation to traffic with the neighbouring nations. Michillimackinac, in the language of the Chippewa Indians, signifies a *trout*; and the place is supposed to receive its name

from an island, lying about six or seven miles to the North-East, within sight of the fort, which has the appearance of that animal.

During the Indian war that followed soon after the conquest of Canada in the year 1763, and which was carried on by an army of confederate nations composed of the Hurons, Miamies, Chipeways, Ojibwas, Pontomattimies, Mississaugas, and some other tribes, under the direction of Pontiac, a celebrated Indian warrior, who had always been in the French interest, it was taken by surprize in the following manner: The Indians, having settled their plan, drew near the fort, and began a game at ball, a pastime much used among them, and not unlike tennis. In the height of their game, at which some of the English officers, not suspecting any deceit, stood looking on, they struck the ball, as if by accident, over the stockade; this they repeated two or three times, to make the deception more complete; till at length, having by this means lulled every suspicion of the centre at the South gate, a party rushed by him, and the rest soon following, they took possession of the fort, without meeting with any opposition. Having accomplished their design, the Indians had the humanity to spare the lives of the greatest part of the garrison and traders, but they made them all prisoners, and carried them off. However, some time after they took them to Montreal, where they were redeemed at a good price. The fort also was given up again to the English, at the peace made with Pontiac by the commander of Detroit, the year following.

Having here made the necessary dispositions for pursuing my travels, and obtained a credit from Mr. Rogers, the governor, on some English and Canadian traders, who were going to trade on the Mississippi, and received also from him a promise of a fresh supply of goods when I reached the falls of Saint Anthony, I left the fort on the 3d of September, in company with these traders. It was agreed that they should furnish me with such goods as I might want, for presents to the Indian chiefs, during my continuance with them, agreeable to the governor's order, but when I arrived at

the extent of their route, I was to find other guides, and to depend on the goods the governor had promised to supply me with.

We accordingly set out together, and on the 18th arrived at Fort La Bay. This fort is situated on the southern extremity of a bay in Lake Michigan, termed by the French the Bay of Puants; but which, since the English have gained possession of all the settlements on this part of the continent is called by them Green Bay. The reason of its being thus denominated is from its appearance, for on leaving Michillimackinac in the spring season, though the trees there have not put forth their buds, yet you find the country around La Bay, notwithstanding the passage not exceeded fourteen days, covered with the finest verdure, and vegetation as forward as it could be were it summer.

This fort, also, is only surrounded by a stockade, and being much decayed, is scarcely defensible against small arms. It was built by the French for the protection of their trade, some time before they were forced to relinquish it; and when Canada and its dependencies were surrendered to the English, it was immediately garrisoned with an officer and thirty men; these were made prisoners by the Menomoniens, soon after the surprize of Michillimackinac, and the fort has neither been garrisoned or kept in repair since.

The Bay is about 90 miles long, but differs much in its breadth, being in some places only fifteen miles, in others from twenty to thirty; it lies nearly from North-East to South-West. At the entrance of it from the lake, are a string of islands, extending from North to South, called the Grand Traverse; these are 30 miles in length, and serve to facilitate the passage of canoes, as they shelter them from the winds, which sometimes come with violence across the lake. On the side that lies to the South-East is the nearest and best navigation.

The islands of the Grand Traverse are mostly small and rocky—many of the rocks are of an amazing size, and appear as if they had been fashioned by the hands of artists. On the largest and best