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or of: to
ne ~~any~~
gave water
The sug-
Lichfield,

In 1819 there was found on the shore of Christian
Island off in Georgian Bay a relic of the Jesuit mission
to Huronia, which ^{has} aroused much curious speculation.
It is a small cannon of bronze & iron, of unusual
construction & its shape & the ~~circumstances~~ ^{date} of its arrival
& its donor, & many other circumstances connected with
it have been the subjects of considerable controversy.

In common with ^{all} others interested in the history of Hu-
ronia, I searched the Jesuit relations & other contempor-
ary documents for some reference which might contain
information & give some explanation of this curious
piece of artillery. I found nothing in these or in second-
ary sources beyond some conjectures as to ~~the donor~~ who
sent it out to Canada, & ^{vague} ~~some~~ interpretations of
~~some~~ a few words inscribed upon it.

Thus it remained, like so many other minor facts of
our past, surrounded with an attractive ^(fascinating) atmo-
sphere of mystery. ~~That gives to these trivial things a~~
~~historical importance~~ I know not whether other
students of history, amateurs or professional, are af-
flicted with a similar habit of mind ^{as} myself, but I find
such ~~trivial~~ ^{exacting} things occupying ~~a~~ ^a degree of attention

out of all proportion to their historic importance or significance & obviating themselves at times when I should be concentrating upon matters of more serious importance. It is in vain that I brush aside these ~~mental~~ interruptions. They are, as it were, mental mosquitoes continually buzzing about one's thoughts, & I suppose that I suspect that the ^{prevalence} of this habit classifies ~~me~~ ^{one} as an antiquarian rather than ~~an~~ historian. Such ~~however~~ ^{abundantly} ~~therefore~~ was the effect of the cloud of uncertainty & ignorance which obscured the old canon ^{upon me} throughout the years since I first saw it. There it was, visible, tangible, with not a single documentary statement to back on to it.

But, what research fails ^{to discover}, accident occasionally reveals. One little fact has emerged, & as is so often the case, from a source an unexpected source. Some time ago, looking through Abbe J. B. A. Ferland's

"Notes sur les Registres de Notre Dame de Quebec", which ^{are not confined to} ~~certain~~ ^{not only} purely parochial, but have frequent items of general news, I came upon the following under date of ~~the~~ ^{the} August 6th 1648. French

Sent ~~in~~ 3 Kewas 50 or 60 Huron canoes in which were embarked 25 Frenchmen: 5 Jesuit Fathers

1 Brother, 3 young men or boys, 9 workers & 8 soldiers, besides 4 which were to be taken on at Montreal, 1 heifer, and a small piece of cannon." In all probability that found on Christian Island. Thus on that August day it we have a brief glimpse of it before it vanishes into the northern wilderness. One can follow it in imagination up the river; over the portage, certain that it gave less trouble than its travelling companion, the heifer, who, if she was ~~the~~ ^a typically cow, must have often led the good fathers a merry dance.

This piece of information from an unexpected source naturally suggested a consultation of Father Jones' Old Huronia. Here, in the section devoted to missionaries - missions year by year. I found on pp. 375-76 the record of the arrival of the party at Fort Ste Marie. Omitting the authorities cited it reads as follows: "In the beginning of September 1648 J. Bressani returned from Ouebec with ~~four~~ new missionaries, FF. Gabriel Salmand, Jacques Bonin, Adam Greslon, Adrien Davan, and a lay brother, Nicolas Nourclay, Petit Simo aged 16, afterwards known on the missions as Bro. Louis La Boesme. Leaving Ouebec July 24, 1648, the whole Indian flotilla, com-

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sisting of 50 or 60 canoes, finally set out for the west from Three River on Aug. 6th. Besides those mentioned there were 26 Frenchmen, 2 boys, 9 labourers and 8 soldiers, and 4 more of the latter were picked up at Montreal. There is no mention of the keifer or the Cannon, but there can be no doubt that the cannon at any rate reached Ste Marie safely.

Thus from these ~~two~~ ^{two} sources we learn ~~from~~ emerge ~~the facts~~ a few minor facts - the date about it - The date of its leaving Three River ^{Aug 6th} & the approximate date of its arrival, ~~the journey taking~~ the beginning of September; ~~and~~ the short time that it was in the Great Lakes - at Ste Marie I from ^{early} September 1648 to the departure for Christian Island, and at Ste Marie II till the final abandonment of the Huron Mission on ^{when appar-} ently the cannon was left behind. Thus too is rendered im- ^{probable} the suggestion that its donor was Richelieu, his death having taken place in 1642, six years before ~~the~~ it came to St. Marie.