

tained, that by its means, communication might be opened either with the Gulf of Mexico if it ran south, or with the Pacific, if it flowed west to empty there; and whichever course it took, great benefits were expected.

The intendant did not wish to leave America, without throwing light on this important point; he confided this exploration to Father Marquette, who had already traversed almost all the countries of Canada, and who was highly esteemed by the Indians. Joliet, a citizen of Quebec, a man of ability and experience, was associated with him.<sup>1</sup> They set out together from the Bay of Lake Michigan, embarked on Fox River,<sup>2</sup> which empties into it, and

1672.

p. 12; 1662, p. 3; 1664, ch. 1; 1667, p. 23; 1670, pp. 80, 91, 100; 1671, p. 24; Shea, *Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi Valley*, xxii.-v. The name is given as Messipi, Messisipi, and finally, Missisipi. *Mechissippi* does not occur, nor the form given by Hennepin, and adopted by Chateaubriand, *Meschacebe*. It is compounded of two simple words, *Missi*, great, and *sipi*, river.

<sup>1</sup> Talon recommended Joliet, who was appointed by the Chevalier de Grandfontaine: Frontenac's Dispatch, November 2, 1672, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 93, 121; Dablon in *Discovery of the Mississippi*, p. 4; *Relations Inédites*, i., pp. 193-4; *De la Porte*, ii., p. 130; *Canada Doc.*, II., ii., p. 140. Louis Joliet was born at Quebec, September 21, 1645, son of John Joliet and Mary d'Abancour. He was educated at the Jesuit college, and in 1662 received minor orders. He remained an ecclesiastic till 1667, when he apparently abandoned all ideas of the priesthood, and went to the West. Talon, Dablon, and indeed all speak highly of him. In 1675 he married Clara Frances Bissot. In 1680, he obtained a grant of Anticosti as a reward for his west-

ern discovery. He was royal hydrographer. He died in May, 1700. Some of his descendants still possess the seigneurie of Joliet: Ferland, *Notes sur les Registres de Quebec*, pp. 50-57. Father James Marquette was merely the associate of Joliet, not the government agent as here stated. He was born at Laon in 1637, became a Jesuit in 1654, came to America in September, 1666, and after studying Algonquin at Three Rivers, was sent to the West in April, 1668. He established the mission at Mackinac in 1671, and had apparently solicited an appointment on the expedition: *Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi*, xli., etc. On his return he began a mission at Old Kaskaskia, on the Illinois River, and having returned to it in 1674, fell ill at Chicago, wintered there, in the spring proceeded to Kaskaskia, but sinking rapidly, died, May 18, 1675, while endeavoring to reach Michilimackinac. His comrades buried him by the lake shore, at the mouth of a river that thenceforth took his name.

<sup>2</sup> The river of the Foxes. The proper name of these Indians is *Ou-tagamis*: *Charlevoix*. They set out