

1672-3. The missionary was very well received by the Great Chief of the Miamis. He took up his abode in the chief town of these Indians, and spent the last years of his life in announcing Jesus Christ to them.¹ The preceding year Fathers Allouez and Dablon had with great toil traversed all the country south of the great bay, without reaping much fruit of their labors. While ascending Fox River they perceived on the edge of one of those rapids, which are, as we have remarked, very frequent on this river, a kind of idol quite rudely made, and seeming rather one of those caprices of nature, where men think they can trace some resemblance to works of art. It was a rock, the summit of which seemed at a distance a man's head. This the Indians had taken as the tutelary god of their country. They frequently daubed it with all sorts of colors, and never passed near without offering it tobacco, arrows, or the like. The missionaries, to convince the heathen of the impotence of their pretended deity, threw

Description
of the
country of
the Foxes
and
Mascoutins.

falls into an absurd error, making him return by the St. Joseph, "where Mr. de la Sale had begun an establishment."

¹ Charlevoix here, and in his Journal, pp. 313-4, followed apparently some vague tradition. He does not seem to have consulted the archives of his order at Quebec, Paris, or Rome. The manuscripts first published in my Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi Valley, give Marquette's life fully. Jolliet left him at Green Bay, where he was soon prostrated with disease. Having promised the Kaskaskias to return and begin a mission among them on the head waters of the Illinois, he wrote to Quebec for permission, and October 25, 1674, he set out, crossing the peninsula to Lake Michigan. His health failed, and on reaching Chicago, December 4, he had to stop and winter there. In the

spring, recovering slightly, he advanced and reached the Kaskaskias, April 8. After laying the foundation of a mission he endeavored to reach Mackinac by way of St. Joseph's River and the eastern shore of Lake Michigan; but death came rapidly on, and he was taken ashore by his two boatmen, near the river that bears his name, and there died, May 18, 1675. Two years later some Ottawas took up his bones and conveyed them to Mackinac: Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi Valley, pp. lxxvi.-lxxiii., 53-66; Relations Inédites, ii., p. 290; Marquette's last letter, *ib.*, p. 257; Relations Inédites, ii., p. 317; Récit des Voyages du Père Marquette, pp. 90-169; Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1673-9, pp. 99-120. See as to Marquette, also, Spark's Life, Library American Biography, Series I., vol. x.