

Meanwhile the departure of Mr. Talon and the death of Father Marquette had caused the Micissippi to be lost sight of, and no measures were taken to complete the discovery. At last Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Sale, who had emigrated to America some years before, and who had gone there only to undertake some enterprise likely to give him wealth and honor, saw that nothing was better adapted to enable him to gain his ends than to enter into the views of Mr. Talon as to the discovery of this great river, and the country watered by it.

1676-8.
 Arrival of
 the Sieur de
 la Sale in
 Canada.
 His
 character.

He was born at Rouen of a family in easy circumstances; but having spent some years among the Jesuits,¹ he had no share in the property of his parents. He had a cultivated mind, ambition for distinction, and felt that he had the genius and courage requisite for success. In fact he lacked neither resolution to undertake nor constancy to follow up a project, neither firmness to withstand obstacles, nor resources to repair his losses; but he could not win love nor manage those whom he needed, and as soon as he possessed authority he exercised it with severity and hauteur. With such defects he could not be successful, nor was he.

and chapel burnt: Relation, 1673-9, p. 4.

The missionaries at Green Bay extended their labors to the Menomonees, Fox, Mascoutins, Winnebagoes, and Miamis, and, after Marquette's discovery, to the Illinois: Relation, 1672-3, p. 157; 1673-9, pp. 79-134.

¹ Robert Cavalier de la Salle was born at Rouen in 1643. The statement here made of his having been a Jesuit is on the authority of Hennepin in Nouvelle Découverte, Avis au Lecteur, p. 107, which states that he had been among the Jesuits ten or eleven years, and taught in one of their colleges. He professes to have seen the document of the

general releasing him from his vows; but Father Felix Martin, on examining the catalogues of the French provinces of the time in order to obtain the date of his birth, entrance into the order, as well as the year when his name ceased to be given, failed to find any trace whatever of him. It is, therefore, most probable that Hennepin was mistaken. The assertion is, however, repeated by Mr. Faillon, Histoire de la Colonie Française, iii., p. 228, who seems to adduce family papers to sustain it. Yet as he is said to have been only a novice, it is not easy to see how he could have been treated as *civilliter mortuus*, and deprived of his inheritance.