

French who came from Canada; then they descended the river to the sea, after which they returned to Fort Creve-cœur without any thing of importance happening to them,¹ notwithstanding what is stated in the romance published under the name of the Chevalier de Tonti, which makes them meet with several French settlements in the Micissipi, find the source of that river on a high mountain, and push their course to the Lake of the Assiniboils.²

1680.

The same must be said of the Recollect Missions found laid down on the maps in several places, and which at best designate places where Father Hennepin said mass or planted a cross. That religious did not understand a word of the languages of all these tribes, and made no stay in any nation, except as a prisoner among the Sioux. The source of the Micissipi is still unknown;³ the Lake of the Assiniboils is very far from the points reached by the two travellers, and it is certain that the French then

¹ It is not easy to see how Charlevoix could have read Hennepin's volumes and made such a strange medley. Hennepin left Fort Creve-cœur February 29 (le Clercq, ii., pp. 161, 168), and reached the Mississippi March 8, 1680: Description de la Louisiane, p. 193; Nouvelle Découverte, p. 243. In the former work he then, without continuing his diary, describes the river up to the river and lake of the Issati, above St. Anthony's Falls (pp. 194-204), and he mentions their capture by the Sioux, April 11, 1680, without stating where, except remarking, p. 218, that they had made two hundred leagues after leaving the Illinois. After their capture they made two hundred and fifty on the Mississippi (p. 219). In his second work he asserts that on reaching the Mississippi they went down, reached the mouth on the 25th of March, started back April 1, reached the Arkansas

on the 9th (Nouvelle Découverte, pp. 245-286), and were taken on the 12th, one hundred and fifty leagues above the mouth of the Illinois (pp. 314-325). According to both accounts, he was delivered by du Luth, and, reaching Green Bay, wintered at Michillimakinac, whence, at Easter, 1681, he descended to Quebec: Description de la Louisiane, pp. 284-296; Nouvelle Découverte (pp. 410-438). The voyage down is now regarded as a subsequent invention. See Spark's Life of la Salle; Discovery of the Mississippi, pp. 99-106.

² Tonty, Memoire in Voyages au Nord, v., p. 82; his real Memoir in Margry: Relations, etc., pp. 1-36; Louisiana Hist. Col., i., p. 52, has nothing of the kind.

³ Schoolcraft traced one branch to its source in a lake which he preposterously called Itasca Lake, compounding itas of veritas with ca of caput, to make *true head*.