

EVANSVILLE, IND., March 22, 1855.

MOST REV. DEAR SIR:—A copy of the *Catholic Telegraph*, of the date of the 10th inst., has been forwarded me from Cincinnati, containing a long communication from Mr. Shea, and headed, "Justice to Marquette," and containing a review of my address, delivered before the "Catholic Association" of your city, in January last. Now, I have no wish whatever, to get into a newspaper discussion with Mr. Shea, or any other person on the subject of any *injustice* done to Marquette. Nor do I intend to. I have too high a regard for the memory of that great and good man, Marquette, to be willing, even *unwittingly*, to do him injustice. I accord to him fully the merits of the first discoverer of the Mississippi; and I have not the slightest doubt that to *his* exploration, we owe the first knowledge of the "Father of Waters;" but from all I have read, and seen, or heard, I am yet unconvinced that years before Marquette ascended the Fox, and descended the Wisconsin to its junction with the Mississippi, the Jesuit Fathers, starting from Chicago, had not established their missions on the Mississippi, at Cahokia, and Kaskaskia, as well as at Peoria, on the Illinois—true, they had not descended the Mississippi, but *overland* through the present State of Illinois—they had reached and established their missions on the Mississippi, before Marquette descended that stream. And I do no *injustice* to Marquette by saying, what I believe, and what "a far greater" man than I am, was fully convinced of, (Bishop Brute,) that the missions at Cahokia and Kaskaskia were *well-known* to exist by Father Marquette, previous to his leaving Lake Michigan, on his voyage of discovery. In saying this, I "ascribe" to Marquette "no concealment of the truth," or charge him with "usurping another's glory;" for, no doubt, the Rev. Fathers, who were located at Cahokia and Kaskaskia, were as ignorant of the sources and debouchment of the river they lived on—