or whether it "emptied into the Gulf of California or Mexico"
—as Marquette himself was. Nor is this at all astonishing,
when we know that the Jesuit missionaries on the Wabash
believed, and so marked it on their maps—two of which I
have seen—that the *Wabash* emptied into the Mississippi, and
not the Ohio, of which last stream they were entirely
ignorant, as late as the early part of the eighteenth century.
The notes of the dates and names of the missionaries who had
preceded Marquette in the Western missions, were given to me
by Bishop Brute; and I learnt *from him,* were forwarded by
the Bishop of Quebec from the archives of that See—that he
believed they were correct and authentic. *I know,* and as *you
know*—Bishop Brute never stated an *historical fact* without the
fullest proof of its legitimacy. I have thus given my authority
for the statement, and, if erroneous, other and greater anti-
quarians and scholars than myself and Mr. Shea, have been
led into the same *mistake;* but none of us, I venture to say,
in making these had the slightest idea that we were detract-
ing one tittle from the well-known and *universally* admitted
credit given to Pere Marquette, as the discoverer, the *geographi-
cal discoverer,* of the Mississippi.

I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with Mr. Shea;
nor have I read his *"History of the Catholic Missions among
the Indian Tribes,"* or his *"Discovery and Exploration of the
Mississippi,"* though I should be glad to do so. They are
not to be procured here. With such a veteran, in such a field,
it would be the extreme of hardihood and chivalry to break
a lance, considering that I am but a mere *volunteer* and *raw
recruit;* but you may assure him of one fact—that in any
statement of mine, made in the late address, or elsewhere, I
have not had the slightest intention of doing *injustice* "to
any of that noble band of martyrs who gave up their lives in
the wilderness" for the propagation of the true faith—much
less to the "noblest Roman" of them all—P. Marquette.

Your friend and obedient servant,   JOHN LAW.