

MOST REV. DEAR SIR—Yours of the date of the 26th, was duly received—and I am glad you are about to settle the “*questio vexata*” by a direct appeal to the fountain head. I presume Monseigneur, the Archbishop of Quebec, can, from the archives of his Diocese, throw some light on it. There are certainly strong reasons for believing that Noiseux “*Pretre et Grand Vicaire du Diocese de Quebec*,” (as you say,) “would not fabricate history, assign dates, and insert the names of missionaries, to fill up gaps, and give a coloring of truth to mis-statements.” He must have got his *names* and *dates* from some *authentic* source, and most probably from the archives of the Diocese of Quebec, the same source from which our venerable friend, the late Bishop Brute, obtained the same names and dates. In relation to the truth, or falsehood, of these statements I have no defence to make. I but merely reported, what others presumed to know, *the facts*, had already averred to be true, and which, without intending to do the slightest injustice to Pere Marquette, as a *discoverer*, I still believe to be true. It abates not a tithe from the well earned fame of Father Marquette, that Jesuit missions had been established at Kaskaskia and Cahokia anterior to his exploration of the “Father of Waters.” *He*, and *he* alone, was the first *geographical* discoverer of that stream, the first *white* man, that navigated its waters; and until I am further informed, convinced of *our* errors, I feel disposed to say to Mr. Shea, as Mr. Saulnier remarked to him, “Mr. Noiseux may be *very good authority* in spite of Mr. Shea.” I shall therefore await patiently the denouement of the investigations at Quebec, and trust you will be kind enough to furnish me the result.

Your friend and obedient servant,

JOHN LAW.

EVANSVILLE, March 30th, 1855.

MOST REV. ARCHBISHOP PURCELL, *Cincinnati, Ohio.*