

Jesuits, Cavalier De La Salle always associated with the Sulpicians or Récollets whom Colbert had raised up against the Jesuits, in order to lessen the influence of those who would fain undermine him.

If La Salle had wished to practice deception, and to claim a merit that was not his, nothing would have prevented his saying that he had gone farther down the river Mississippi or Colbert than he does say he went, whereas, he left to Jolliet and to Father Marquette the honor of having penetrated to that river by way of the Wisconsin, and of having descended the Mississippi three degrees farther than he, and that, before his enterprise of 1678.

These facts I have considered it my duty to establish in opposition to the allegations of those who affirm that La Salle did not conceive any projects of discovery till after the voyage of Jolliet—which is just the contrary of truth.¹

All these questions I will treat of again when the Americans shall have discussed my documents. Knowing the topography, they have facilities which I have not. I would be very glad to see them promptly carry out a critical and geographical examination, showing the present names of the regions traversed by our explorers, of the places where they halted, and of those marked by any incident of interest.

To the States included between the Alleghanies and the Rocky Mountains, I make known the facts of their origin. It is for them to interpret those facts.

I beg you in my name to thank Prof. Butler for his souvenir.²
Believe me to be personally your very humble servant,

PIERRE MARGRY.

MR. LYMAN C. DRAPER, Corresponding Secretary Wisconsin State Historical Society.

¹ See *General Journal of Public Instruction*, 1862, pp. 626, 657, 658.

² A photograph of the ostensorium presented to the Green Bay mission in 1686 by Nicolas Perrault—lost for more than a century—discovered deep in the ground, and believed to be the oldest memorial with a date regarding any place west of the Alleghanies.
J. D. B.