

will be evermore lamentable. It has "dammed itself to everlasting fame." In the course of it, a Venetian bomb falling upon the Parthenon, which was the Turkish powder magazine, blew out both sides of the most exquisite architectural miracle which the world has ever seen—at once the glory of Phidias and Ictinus, and the shame of all ages since. Worst of all, the taking of Athens was no permanent gain. In a few months Morosini's forces were so out-numbered that they were obliged to retire from that city they had bought so dearly. But they held out for a generation in the Peloponnesus.

The conquests of Morosini, which may now appear insignificant, in his own time were almost beyond belief. They were the first foothold gained in the Levant by any Christian state since the crusades, the first break in the prestige of Ottoman invincibility. The joy at Venice was unbounded. The statue of Morosini was set up in the "hall of ten." He was honored with the sonorous title of *Peloponnesiacus*, and the ring and cap of supreme magistrate or doge were sent to him while he was among his soldiers and sailors in Greece. Hence, on the medal, his costume betokens alike the warrior and the doge. Indeed, the occasion of stamping it seems to have been his triumphal career in behalf of the city which had sent to him, saying: "Come thou and rule over us!" The history of the czar today is only repeating that of Morosini, two centuries ago.

But neither in an historical nor in an artistic point of view is my medal most interesting. It fascinates me most because it was found where one would no more look for it than that it should appear dropping down from the clouds, or picked out of the stomach of a pickerel. It first met my eye in central Illinois—not far from the rock of St. Louis, which was the Gibraltar of La Salle, and I suppose was discovered in the ground there, or thereabouts. It was by no means old when lost or buried. Had it been, it could not possibly remain today so fresh and new in aspect.

How came it in Illinois? I hold that this plate of Italian silver may have been sent to the Italian, Tonty, the officer who discovered one mouth of the Mississippi on the same day that La Salle discovered another, and who, for twenty years afterward,