

commanded at the Rock of St. Louis, near which the medal was found. Its date was right in the midst of Tonty's holding this command. It showed Italian successes among Eastern barbarians. Nothing could have greater attractions for an Italian who was grappling with Western barbarians. More than this, Tonty had himself fought near Turks—and like Cervantes, lost a hand in battling there. What could he love better than to see those infidels, as on the medal, in chains and trampled on by the Italian lion? Nor were opportunities wanting for this blazon of Venetian glory to reach Tonty. Goods, dispatches, traders, soldiers, and, above all, missionaries, notably St. Cosme, whom Tonty escorted for more than a month and those sometimes from Italy, came to him every year.

That some Italian medals were brought into our Northwest, by early missionaries, is certain. One of them was discovered in May, 1878, by Patrick McCabe, a railroad laborer, while digging out gravel by the site of old Fort Howard, near Green Bay. This medal bears the Jesuit escutcheon, namely, an orb inscribed with the three letters, I. H. S., having a cross above them, and three nails below them. Beneath this coat of arms two angels kneel. At their feet is the mint mark ROMA, while an Italian inscription forms an arch over all the figures. It has been ascertained by Bishop Krautbauer, from the general of the Jesuits, that no such medal has been struck since the restoration of the order in 1814. It must then be older than the abolition of the order in 1773. Its antiquity is probably much greater, as the permanent French mission at Green Bay was given up in 1729. The certainty that sacred medals came from Italy into our early Northwest, will not let me think it incredible that secular medals simultaneously penetrated that distant region.

These considerations may serve to strengthen other proofs which, I confess, do demonstrate thinly. When a more plausible conjecture is presented, I will give up mine. Meantime, however, I have reason to prize the Morosini medal as a memorial of Tonty, and hence, to the best of my present knowledge, the most ancient and hence honorable relic of any white settler which Illinois, in all its length and breadth, can boast, a witness whose tales, if he