

Joliet, and Marquette, penetrated the unknown wilderness from Canada, and discovered the Mississippi so long ago as the year 1673, and explored it down to the Arkansaw. Perhaps encouraged by his success, a few years after, Hennepin visited those regions, and pursued that river to its mouth. His representations, with other considerations, two years after, induced M. de la Salle and M. Tonti, to descend that river with a considerable force to the Gulf of Mexico, and is believed to have built the fort during that trip, the bricks, and other remains of which, are now to be seen on the first high ground on the west side of the Mississippi, below the mouth of the White river.

After this period, in 1685, M. de la Salle, being on his return from France, landed on the west side of the Rio Colorado, in the bay of St. Bernard, and planted a considerable colony there, taking possession, in due and solemn form, in the name of the French king. Such were the discoveries which gave to France the country called Louisiana, from the Rio Grande del Norte, being the next great river to the west of that settlement, along the mountains of Mexico and New Spain west, as the western limits, and California as the eastern boundary. That France, and all other nations interested in its boundary, considered it in the same light, is ascertained in various ways, to the conviction of the most incredulous.

In consequence of these settlements and discoveries of the French, Louis the 14th granted, by letters patent, in the year 1712, to Anthony Crozat the exclusive commerce of that country, and defines its boundary, declaring that it comprehends all lands, coasts, and islands, situated in the gulf of Mexico, between Carolina on the east, and Old and New Mexico on the west. The French title to these boundaries is farther established by the Chevalier de Champigny, who lived in the country, and declares Louisiana to extend to the Rio Grande del Norte, and the mountains of Mexico. This appears to be the opinion of other writers, who, it is presumed, had the most intimate knowledge of the subject, and among them we find that intelligent statesman, the count de Vergennes, in a work, entitled an Historical and Political Memoir of Louisiana, where, he says, it is bounded by Florida on the east, and by Mexico on the west. The same extent is assigned to it by Don Antonio de Alcedo, an officer of high rank in the service of Spain, entitled "*Diccionario Geografico Historico de las Indias Occidentales o America.*" Don Thomas Lopez, geographer to the king of Spain, in a map published in 1762, is of the same opinion, which is supported by the opinion of L'Isle, of the Royal Academy of Paris, in the year 1782.

Upon the testimony of so many respectable writers, many of whom in the employment of both France and Spain, not to mention the authority of Du Pratz, it is believed the United States may with safety rely, they having, by the treaty of Paris of 1803, become possessed of the French title. If, however, there exists any obscurity in the boundary of that province, Spain, with whom it is supposed the title conflicts, has no right to claim any benefit arising from it, as all the