

interesting. He was of  
was born in 1643, and  
Salle, from the name  
Jesuits, but, preferring  
ager for adventure, he  
then twenty-three years

him, in 1669, making  
ended as far as the rap-  
traced his steps alone.  
barking in a canoe on  
lakes Huron and Michi-  
of latitude. Assured  
of California, as had  
no returned to provide  
y, La Salle's journals,  
h existed in 1756, are  
n to the world the first

red in 1673 by Father  
adventurous merchant,  
not, however, go far

much earlier period is  
t the lower settlements  
s by the Ottawa, being  
and 1612 ascended that  
ntry of the Sacs, near  
Erie, as is shown by  
Salle's first expedition  
ior and Galinee—who,  
, and resolved to carry  
r lakes. After various  
their baggage, including  
ice of the devil—they  
elate: "At the end of  
veneration among all  
one which nature has  
une of their navigation  
skins, provisions, etc."  
mbulance to humanity.  
they owed their ship-  
k whether we avenged  
ed us to honor) the loss  
provisions we had been  
those hatred it had not  
e of his axes to break  
er, we carried the frag-  
ld hear of it again."  
od action, for we killed

This place being, as the narrative tells us, "full of the lodges of those who had come to render their homage to this stone," it seems incredible that such a deed could be done in the very presence of its savage worshippers, if it were indeed a manito. Whether the savages were restrained by the audacity of the act, or the huge proportions of one of the reverend friars, or whether they attached less importance to the "idol" than these zealous iconoclasts supposed, does not appear. Sacred stones were not uncommon in these parts. I have seen several such altars, sometimes in the most wild and lonely situations, invariably covered with bits of tobacco and other petty gifts, which cost little sacrifice. Several years had passed since these adventures, but La Salle had lost neither energy nor purpose. Means only were lacking. But he had rich relatives, and he was aided, so far as authority could go, by the most energetic and astute governor that had yet administered the affairs of Canada. Together they planned a post on Lake Ontario, far beyond the settlements of the St. Lawrence, which might overawe the Iroquois and turn to France the stream of wealth that was inuring to the Dutch and English from the fur trade. Twice La Salle visited France, where his influence at court obtained for him permission to pursue his plans at his own expense for five years. He received from the king a patent of nobility and a grant in seignior of Fort Frontenac, as the new post was called.

But the ardent nature of the man was not content with the prospect of fortune now secured. To him it was only a base for operations of vaster extent and bolder enterprise. The object which he had in view was most comprehensive. If the project of a passage to China across the continent proved delusive he would anticipate the Spaniards and the English in their occupation of the great west. He would colonize it with Frenchmen, develop its resources, make friends of the Indian tribes, and, by controlling the mouth of the Mississippi, secure an outlet for a vast trade in the future. As necessary to his scheme he proposed to build a vessel for the navigation of the lakes, above the Niagara, where only canoes had been seen before, sufficiently large to carry the material needed for so vast an enterprise. In the corps organized for this expedition were two noted men afterwards famous in Canadian annals. Henry De Tonty, his lieutenant, was a young Italian officer who had lost a hand in the Sicilian wars, and whom political troubles had driven to the new world. For the lost member he had substituted one of iron, which gained him the sobriquet of the "iron hand." It was symbolic of his indomitable character. The other adventurous spirit was the bold, audacious, and hardy friar, Pere Louis Hennepin, who had more taste for wild and romantic travel than for the spiritual part of his mission. He became the historian of the expedition, but is too little trustworthy and is inclined to magnify his own exploits at the expense of others of greater merit.

The place where was built the first vessel that sailed the upper lakes is the mouth of a small stream, the Cayuga, about six miles above the cataract, on the west side of Niagara river. Hennepin says "most of the Iroquois were gone to wage war on the other side of Lake Erie," so, though exposed to occasional alarms, the party were in little danger. Two Mohegan hunters prepared lodges and supplied game. The vessel was finished early in the spring of 1679. She was, according to Hennepin's first account, of about forty-five tons burden. He afterwards reports it as sixty tons, which is much more probable, considering the number of men and munitions she carried. Accompanying Hennepin's volume is an engraving representing her in an