

patch. That, after his return from Ohio, he started westward, and forestalled Marquette and Joliet, or went while they were actually on the river, it is impossible to believe. There would have been some notice somewhere of the rival attempts. In the summer of 1673, he was Frontenac's messenger to the Iroquois cantons; at Easter, in 1674, he was creating a disturbance in the church at Montreal; in November he went to France.

La Salle's prior discovery of the Mississippi is a bubble, which Mr. Margry, by giving in articles merely fragments of documents, has ingeniously blown to an immense size. It staggered many who thought that there must be something in it. Clear heads like HARRISSE, TAILHAN, FAILLON, examined his arguments carefully, so far as they had the documents, and decided that he failed to prove his case. Mr. Parkman, more guardedly, reaches the same result. Now that we have all that he relies on, the bubble bursts and vanishes into thin air; it is merely a monstrous hoax that he has been playing.