

the Illinois, to whom he had really been destined when he started on his journey, and of whom he subsequently became the apostle. From Lapointe he wrote a long and interesting letter to the Superior of the Missions at Quebec, describing the habits of his people, and not foreseeing that he would soon be obliged to follow a large portion of them to Mackinaw, where they were driven by the fate of a terrible Algonquin campaign. There he established the well-known Mission of St. Ignatius or Michilimackinac, building a log chapel, with roof of bark, that mirrored itself in the stormy lake. He remained at this point for two years, during which he expressed the wish to penetrate farther into the Illinois land, and, while evangelizing, explore the great river which the Indians told flowed into the great sea.

Finally, in 1672, news reached him from Quebec that his prayer was to be heard, and that on the recommendation of M. Talon, the commission of the Count de Frontenac he was to visit the tribes of the Mississippi River, near which dwell the Illinois (I am quoting his own words), along with a trapper named Joliet. Having spent the winter in drawing up maps, taking notes from the Indians, and preparing his itinerary with Joliet, who passed three months in his mission, they started in two canoes on the 17th May, 1673, and paddled from Mackinaw to Green Bay (Baie des Puans), whence they went up the Fox River, and by Portage, launched into the Wisconsin, down which they glided into the Mississippi. (Here a whole paper would be wanted to reproduce the eloquent, though simple, descriptions and reflections of Marquette in his Relation). Joliette called the great river the Buade, in honour of Frontenac, and Marquette christened it Conception, after the Virgin, and thus it stands on his map and in his Relation.

They continued their way, past the Illinois River, the Missouri, and the Ohio, as far as the mouth of the