

critical examination of the signature, date, and inscriptions. Until this investigation is held by experts competent in the matter, whatever our own personal impressions and wishes may be, the friends of historical research will, I fear, suspend judgment."

At intervals during the summer and autumn of 1900, Father Jones and the Editor discussed the panel, in conversation and by letter, but neither found it convenient to visit Toronto to personally inspect the portrait; indeed, such a visit could be of slight avail, for it was felt that its authenticity could not well be established upon this side of the Atlantic. Then, too, the volume (lix.) containing the Marquette papers had long gone to press, and there appeared small excuse for publicly commenting on the matter until more was known.

November 12, as proofs for the present volume were being read, Father Jones wrote: "To-day I have something of interest to add to what I have already written you, in the matter of the Marquette portrait. A month or so ago I sent one of the photo-prints to Rev. A. Hamy, S. J., who is stationed at Boulogne-sur-mer, France, and who is much interested in all that relates to Père Marquette. I thought I had sufficiently explained to him that the lucky discoverer of the portrait was Mr. McNab, in spite of which he gives me undue credit for the find, and adds: 'I congratulate you on having found the likeness. You will now be glad to hear that there is every likelihood of its proving authentic. The day after I received it, I met with the grandson of a Mr. Dagneau de Richecourt, whose wife was a Marquette. This person [the grandson] unhesitatingly assured me that he saw in the picture a striking resemblance to one of his two uncles.' Father Hamy has ordered a large-sized painting from the print, and when this is completed he will have an engraving made. In the October number of the *Études*, a Paris review, the same Father has a short but very interesting article on Marquette, wherein he indulges in the hope of yet being able to trace to its lurking place a portrait of the great discoverer, which is said to exist somewhere in France."

In view of this opinion from one who is probably the best living authority upon Marquette, the Editor deems it prudent at last to present, in the final volume of our series, a statement of this interesting discovery of Mr. McNab, and a half-tone engraving of the panel in question. As stated by Father Jones above, the photograph fails to reveal the obscure signature and inscription described by the finder. Every admirer of one of the most lovable characters in the history of American exploration, will hope that it may eventually be found that the noble physiognomy here depicted was that of the saintly Marquette.