

Frontenac. In this letter, which was written in 1677, to the French Premier, Colbert, Frontenac says that "the Jesuits having learned that M. de la Salle thought of asking (from the French crown) a grant of the Illinois Lake (Lake Michigan), had resolved to seek this grant themselves for Messrs. Joliet and Lebert, men wholly in their interest, and the first of whom they have so highly extolled beforehand, although he did not voyage until after the Sieur de la Salle, who himself will testify to you that the relation of the Sieur Joliet is in many things false." (Vol. i., p. 324.)

"In fine, I found my opinion on the total antagonism between the Jesuits and the merchants, as well as those who represented interest or only a legitimate ambition. In opposition to the Jesuits, the Cavalier de la Salle always associated with the Sulpicians or Recollects, whom Colbert had raised up against the Jesuits, in order to lessen the influence of those who would fain undermine him."

Here, then, is his case: To prove La Salle's discovery of the Mississippi prior to 1673, he relies on, first, a document of no date; second, a letter of 1756; third, a letter of Frontenac, in 1677; fourth, the antagonism between the Jesuits and the merchants. He relies on documents posterior to the date of Joliet and Marquette's voyage, and written when the results of that voyage were known, and on the fact that the Jesuits, as well as the Bishop and secular clergy, including the Sulpicians, were at issue with the merchants, condemning the sale of liquor to the Indians as sinful. This last argument I must dismiss, for I admit that my mind fails to comprehend how the existence of the liquor question in Canada, at that time, can prove that La Salle, who favored liquor, discovered