

Indeed, he admits Joliet's priority: "It is true that the *Sieur Joliet*, to anticipate him, made a voyage, in 1673, to the River Colbert," says La Salle, himself. (Margry, 2, p. 285.)

Moreover, we have La Salle's own evidence, in regard to this Chicago route. In his letter of September 29, 1680 (Margry, 2, p. 79), he claims the discovery of the Ohio, and extols its superiority over the Wisconsin, "the route by which Joliet passed." On p. 95, he decries the Chicago route, as if it had been extolled by others; and on p. 167, explicitly says that it was recommended by Joliet, and on p. 137, he states that the name *Divine* was given to the river by Joliet.

Now, is it possible that he could have taken this route to the Mississippi prior to the voyage of Marquette and Joliet, and consequently before Joliet ever saw this Chicago river, and yet never allude to the fact, but on two occasions associate Joliet with it as discoverer, namer and recommender. Would he not have asserted his own claim, and not fallen back, as he habitually does, on his discovery of the Ohio?

It seems strange that La Salle, without having explored the Mississippi, could have gone to France and obtained a grant when Joliet, the real discoverer, met a refusal. But it is not stranger than to see our Government, without any examination, give money to Mr. Margry to print papers already accessible, or not worth printing, when papers of the highest interest to our country lie unprinted here. However, it is almost impossible to fix a time when La Salle could have gone to the Mississippi before his voyage to France, in the autumn fleet of 1674.

That he had not made the discovery up to November 2, 1671, seems certain from Talon's dis-