

prising, as they appear to have penetrated beyond the Straits of Mackinaw, and one can hardly account for their knowing nothing of the opposite shore.

From this period the progress of discovery was rapid. Perrot was very successful in his negotiations with the tribes round Lake Michigan, who, at a great gathering at Mackinaw, acknowledged the supremacy of France; and the new Governor, Count Frontenac, built the fort which long bore his name, where Kingston now stands. This was the first step which curbed the power of the Iroquois, and afforded any security to the French trade on Ontario. Other forts were soon after built at Niagara, Detroit, and on Lake Huron, which rendered French influence predominant over all the great Lakes. Important discoveries followed each other rapidly. Joliet and Marquette ascended the Outagami from Green Bay on Lake Michigan, and carrying across to the Wisconsin River, followed it down to the Mississippi, which they descended as far as the confluence of the Arkansas, when being satisfied that it flowed into the Gulf of Mexico, they returned by the way of Illinois River to the extremity of Lake Michigan. The latter route was soon after pursued by La Salle with larger means, the Mississippi was followed to its mouth, and a colony founded there.

I have copied Joliet's own map, and his letter to Frontenac giving a brief description of the newly discovered countries.* Father Marquette published a short account of their journey, with a very indifferent map, but this is the only record from Joliet himself, and he gives a pathetic relation of its conclusion; how after escaping all the dangers of a difficult and unknown navigation, amidst hostile Indians, his canoe was upset in sight of the house from which he started, two of his party, his journal and all his baggage were lost, and he brought home nothing but his life.† The inscription in red ink is apparently of a later date,

* Accurate tracings of this and the other maps referred to, in illustration of the paper, have been deposited by the author in the Library of the Canadian Institute.

† The following letter of Joliet to Frontenac, copied from the above map, is interesting as the sole memorial he has left of his expedition:—

Monseigneur le Comte de Frontenac, Conseiller du Roy en ses Conseils, Gouverneur et Lieutenant-general pour sa Majesté en Canada, Acadie, Isle de Terre-neuve et autres pays de la France septentrionale.

Monseigneur,—C'est avec bien de la joye que j'ay le bonheur aujourd'hui de vous presente cette carte, qui vous ferra connoître la situation des rivières et des lacs sur lesquels on navigue au travers du Canada ou Amerique septentionale, qui a plus de 1200 lieux de l'est à l'ouest. Cette grande rivière, qui porte le nom the Rivière Colbert, pour avoir esté decouverte ces derniers années 1673 and 1674, par les premiers ordres que vous me donnates entrant dans votre gouvernement de la Nouvelle France, passe au-dela des Lacs Hurons et Illinois, entre la Floride et le Mexique, et pour se decharger dans la mer coupe le plus beau pays qui se puisse voir sur la Terre. Je n'ay rien veu de plus beau dans la France que la quantité de prairies que j'y ay admirés tous les jours, ny rien d'agréable comme la diversité des bocage et des forets, ou se ceuillent des prunes, des pommes, des grenades, des citrons, des meures,