

results that ensued, results fraught with interest to millions of those whom Christianity and civilization had fitted for the highest and noblest use of the blessings bestowed by a kind Providence.

Two hundred and five years ago this very day two bark canoes were launched at a Quappa town near the Arkansas to stem the mighty tide of the Mississippi. There seemed little in this to give the actors a place in history, measured by the standard of those who see greatness only in the victorious battle-field and no laurels that are not crimsoned with human blood. But let us study this group of peaceful conquerors. There are no other white men within six hundred miles of them. The Spaniards in St. Augustine, which had just celebrated its first centennial, and the English in their new settlement at Charleston were nearer by several hundred miles than any countrymen of the bold explorers.

Alone in the wilderness, with nature in all her majesty speaking her lessons from river and plain, from wooded upland and savannas rich in tropic vegetation, stands a thoughtful man in the worn garb of a missionary, a face that impresses you with the holiness of his life, a frame apparently ill fitted for the rugged career which has aged it prematurely—a man of intellect, piety, and action, his nearest companion, clear and frank, a man of energy and power, with a bearing of culture, study, and observation. His bronzed features, his garb of French frontiersman could not for a moment induce you to confound him with the coarser element with which his life threw him in contact.

Marquette and Joliet stand at the water's edge amid a crowd of Indians from the nearest village, their five bontmen, who had plied their paddles on many a stream and lake, push the light barks into the waters of the Mississippi. A gleam of pride and satisfaction, of holier joy and consolation, light up the countenances of the two explorers.

It was, indeed, a moment of triumph. They had solved a question of geographical science that had long engaged the thoughts of missionary and pioneer, though the learned societies in Europe knew nothing of it. The great Western river, at first dimly heard of, gradually more clearly recognized in Indian talks