

(St. Claire?), entered the Freshwater Sea (Mer Douce), doubled the point of land that cuts the sea in two (Lakes Huron and Michigan), and descending from north to south, leaving on the West the Bay of the Pnans (Green Bay), discovered a bay infinitely larger—at the bottom of which, towards the west, he found a very beautiful harbor (Chicago. Is there any earlier mention or description of that site?) and at the bottom of this river which runs from the east to the west, he followed this river and having arrived at about the 280th (sic.) degree of longitude and the 33th of latitude, he came to another river, which uniting with the first, flowed from the northwest to the southeast. This he followed as far as the 36th degree of latitude, where he found it advisable to stop, contenting himself with the almost certain hope of some day passing by way of the river even to the Gulf of Mexico. Having but a handful of followers, he dared not risk a further expedition in the course of which he was likely to meet with obstacles too great for his strength. (See the work above mentioned. Vol. i., p. 378.)

"I base my opinion, secondly, on a letter of La Salle's niece—the Mississippi and the river Colbert being both one. This letter, dated 1756, says the writer, possessed maps which, in 1676, were possessed by La Salle, and which proved that he had already made two voyages of discovery. Among the places set down on these maps, the river Colbert, the place where La Salle had landed near the Mississippi, and the spot where he planted a cross and took possession of the country in the name of the King are mentioned. (Vol. i., p. 379.)

"I base my opinion, thirdly, on a letter of Count