

ty to a suit many years before, and the papers in her hands must have all been canvassed then. No trace of such a claim appears at that time.

It may be said that the remark of Talon, in 1671, refers really to La Salle's expedition, in which he discovered the Mississippi, and that the Ohio discovery took place before and immediately after parting with Dollier de Casson. This theory cannot stand for a moment. Talon, writing by the vessels that sailed in November, 1671, announces that LaSalle had not yet returned from his explorations. We are then to believe that La Salle returned from the West and announced to Talon in December, 1671, or early in 1672, that he had reached the great river of the West, and descended it to 36 degrees North; and that Talon either disbelieved the whole story and treated it as a fiction, or else forgot it as soon as he heard it. Certainly, by the time the summer of 1672 came, Talon was not influenced by La Salle's report, if there was any report, or he would not have despatched Joliet to the West to try and discover the very river that La Salle had just explored. As Talon has a reputation of being something better than an idiot, we must hold that when he sent Joliet to discover and explore the Mississippi, he had no intelligence of its discovery and exploration by any one else.

Had he known of La Salle's discovery and treated it as an imposture, La Salle, on going to France, in 1674, would undoubtedly have protested against the wrong done him, and in working against Joliet's Illinois project, in 1677, would have used his claim of prior discovery. Even at a later date, when he made the voyage down, which is so fully chronicled, he merely criticized Joliet's account, admitting his voyage, without pretending to have anticipated him.