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*FATHER MARQUETTE.**

By MR. JOHN TALON-LESPERANCE, F.R.S.C.

The subject of this evening's paper has been chosen for two reasons—first, because it is connected with almost the last act of the administration of the great Intendant, Talon, who did more for the internal economy of the colony than any other single man that ever ruled in New France; and secondly, because it treats of the discovery of the great river and valley that divides the North American continent, on the western bank of which, in 1763, just one hundred years after Marquette and Joliet glided down in their canoes before its site, Pierre Laclède Liguert, almost the last of the famous trappers, and the friend of Pontiac, established an Indian trading out post on the flank of a limestone bluff, planted on the top the lily-white flag of France, and with solemn invocation, called it St. Louis, a name which the fifth city of the Union and the Queen of the Mississippi Valley is still proud to bear, and of which your humble servant is no less proud to be a native.

Overlooking a branch of the River Oise, and clinging, like

*This paper was read before the Society for Historical Studies, Montreal, on the 21st Nov. and 19th Dec., 1888, in two parts.