

is a letter of Magdalen Cavelier, Dame Leforestier, a niece of La Salle's, written more than eighty years after the period of the discovery of the Mississippi. It shows her to be very ignorant. Almost every word is misspelt. It runs thus:

"This 21 January 1756.

"As soon, sir, your letter received, I sought a safe way to send you the papers of Mr. de la Salle. There are maps which I have joined to these papers, which ought to serve to prove that in 1675 Mr. de la Salle had already made two voyages in these discoveries, since there is a map which I send you, by which mention is made of the place where Mr. de la Salle landed near the river Misipi, another place that he calls River Cobrer, in another he takes possession of this country in the name of the king and plants a cross, another place that he calls Frontenac, the river Saint Lorans at another place. You will see in these pieces the review made in the fort, which he built of stone, which was of wood. You will find the receipt of Mr. Duchesneau for intendant of 9000 liv. which Mr. de la Salle had paid him to indemnify those who had made this fort of wood."

Now what is there in this? Simply that he had made two voyages of exploration by 1675, fixing, as it were, 1675 as the date of his visit to the Mississippi, and yet the whole tenor makes it clear that the map was made subsequent to his voyage to the mouth, and his planting a cross there, taking possession in the king's name. Certainly there is nothing here to prove that he visited the Mississippi before Joliet. The use of the name Colbert, which was given by Joliet, is evidence that the map was later than his discoveries. But the letter is too vague to amount to anything. The lady was a par-