

an almost endless distance, they went from winter into the budding beauties of spring and the ripe richness of summer.

In triumph they reached the mouth of the river and proclaimed the whole vast region a French possession under the name of Louisiana ; in triumph they returned to Quebec in the spring of 1683 ; in triumph La Salle appeared later on at the French Court. As with all these early explorers the fascination of the scene was, however, too great and he again sailed from France with a strong expedition to find the mouth of the river from the sea and to found a colony which should make the country French in fact as well as in name. He failed to find the place, landed his men some hundreds of miles away and started overland in search of it. In the heart of the fearful wilderness of forest, swamp and sluggish streams his men mutinied and at their hands died the great explorer.

But his life had once more proved the venturesome courage of his race and had aided the work of Cartier and Champlain, of devoted priest and daring *voyageur*, of fur-trader and reckless young noble, in opening to France a possible pathway to power and in unrolling the map of a vast continent.