

who like himself was born in Normandy, says, "He was as brave as the bravest, as pure as the purest, and as unfortunate as the most unfortunate. The Columbus of his age, when he fell beneath the assassin's ball he had achieved a discovery most glorious for France, most glorious for himself." And our own Parkman, who has most worthily told the story of his life, pays him this matchless tribute: "It is easy to reckon up his defects, but it is not easy to hide from sight the Roman virtues that redeemed them. Beset by a throng of enemies, he stands, like the king of Israel, head and shoulders above them all. He was a tower of adamant, against whose impregnable front hardship and danger, the rage of men and the elements, the southern sun, the northern blast, fatigue, famine and disease, delay, disappointment, and deferred hope emptied their quivers in vain.

\* \* America owes him an enduring memory, for in this masculine figure she sees the pioneer who guided her to her richest heritage."

And yet, despite all this, some have sought to decry the achievements of La Salle, because he was not the first, in point of time, to look upon the Mississippi. This was never claimed by or for him. Probably some bold Spaniard, whose name has not come down to us, navigating the Gulf of Mexico soon after the time of Columbus, was the earliest of white men