

INTRODUCTORY.

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Reviving somewhat, he was able to make the partage between the Chicago and Des Plaines, and followed the latter to the Illinois, down which the company proceeded to the location of the present town of Utica, and here was witnessed the first "revival of religion" of that great series in the history of the West which culminated in the Moody and Sankey excitement so recently. Desirous of establishing a mission before his death, Pere Marquette labored with burning zeal to convert the aborigines, and on the shores of the river at the place named he gathered together some 500 chiefs, and thousands of warriors, women and children, to whom he unfolded the sublime truths of Christianity and the touching story of the cross and man's redemption. This pioneer of western revivalists died a few days afterward, on the 19th of March, 1675, in the wilderness while endeavoring to reach Mackinaw.

Lingering regretfully over the annals of this early day, we are forced by the inexorable limits of our space to pass the succeeding developments of the North-West with scarcely more than mention. The ambitious undertakings of Count Frontenac, the new Canadian governor, aided by the enterprise of La Salle, now ennobled by the French government, the latter's companions, Tonti, La Motte, Fathers Hennepin, Labourde and Membre—all these we must slight. Nor have we room to follow closely the record of the development of the trade in furs, now beginning to assume importance, increased about this time greatly by the enterprise of La Salle. The intrigues for the monopoly of that trade, too, on the part of English and French interests; although all of great moment, are without the domain of this volume's particular mission, and are already exhaustively treated in other books. Bowing to the strong necessity for condensation, the author leaves the infant Empire of the Golden North-West at the point where the principal factors in the problem of its future development may first be recognized as existing.

On the 22d of January, 1679, the keel of the first lake vessel was laid by Henri Tonti, La Salle's lieutenant, at the mouth of Cayuga creek, on Lake Erie. In August following, La Salle having returned from France, the white-winged sails of "The Griffin" were spread to the breezes, and the commerce of the great lakes had its initiation. In the labors of the missionaries we have seen the establishment of religion in the factories at Mackinaw and other points of trade, and in the launch of "The Griffin" of commerce. It will be our pleasure to note the results achieved by the operation of these forces in later days, and in the various localities of the region whereof we are writing. With these brief remarks upon the dawn of civilization in the Golden North-West, we introduce the most attractive corner of God's footstool to the kind attention of the reader.