

## NOTE.

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THE preparation of this paper was originally begun with a view to its publication in the issue of the "Educational Reporter" for June, 1886. Its purpose was to state what was known about the head-waters of the Mississippi, and briefly to inquire into the validity of the claims of Captain Willard Glazier to having made important discoveries and explorations in that region.

In common with many others who have editorial supervision of geographical and educational publications, I had been frequently urged to recognize these claims of Captain Glazier; but this inquiry soon assumed such proportions that I contented myself with publishing an extract from Nicollet's report of his explorations in 1836, together with a brief reference to Captain Glazier. With such a statement of previous exploration, it was hoped that Captain Glazier and his friends would somewhat modify or moderate their claims in his behalf. The very opposite has seemed to be the effect, if one may judge correctly from the extracts from the newspaper press which have been sent to me during the past three months.

As a result, what was first intended to be a brief inquiry into the history and progress of exploration at the head-waters of the Mississippi becomes, by force of circumstances, rather the exposure of an attempted fraud which has been altogether too successful for the credit of American intelligence and scholarship. Yet it is always far more agreeable to gather together the scattered data that go to make up the sum of knowledge in any field than simply to break down a reputation for knowledge, however fraudulent that reputation may be; and so I have taken far greater pleasure in collecting under one cover the few facts relative to the exploration of the sources of the great river since the white man first sighted Lake Itasca, than in any pillorying of Captain Glazier, however effective that may seem to be.

HENRY D. HARROWER.

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