

Thus, treading in the very track and footprints of greatness, Captain Glazier reaches Lake Itasca. On the next day he paddles in his canoe a short distance up one of the feeders of Itasca and discovers "Lake Glazier." This is the way it happened:

"Schoolcraft's Narrative," 1834, pp. 55, 56.

"Every step . . . seemed to increase the ardor with which we were carried forward. The desire of reaching the actual source of a stream so celebrated as the Mississippi—a stream which La Salle had reached the mouth of a century and a half (lacking a year) before—was perhaps predominant, and we followed our guides down the sides of our last elevation with the expectation of momentarily reaching the goal of our journey. What had been long sought at last appeared suddenly. On turning out of a thicket into a small weedy opening, the cheering sight of a transparent body of water burst on our view. It was Itasca Lake, the source of the Mississippi."

Glazier's Account, "Am. Met. Journal," 1884, pp. 324, 325.

"Every paddle stroke seemed to increase the ardor with which we were carried forward. The desire to see the actual source of a river so celebrated as the Mississippi, whose mouth had been reached by La Salle nearly two centuries before, was doubtless the controlling incentive. . . . What had long been sought at last appeared suddenly. On pulling and pushing our way through a network of rushes similar to the one encountered on leaving Itasca, the cheering sight of a transparent body of water burst upon our view. It was a beautiful lake—the source of the Father of Waters."

This outburst of enthusiasm lasts but a moment, and the gallant captain again becomes the philosopher and scientist:

"Schoolcraft's Narrative," 1834, p. 58.

"The height of this lake (Itasca) above the sea is an object of geographical interest, which, in the absence of actual survey, it may subserve the purposes of useful inquiry to estimate. From notes taken on the ascent it cannot be short of 160 feet above Cass Lake. Adding the estimate of 1,330 feet submitted in 1820 as the elevation of that lake, the Mississippi may be considered to originate at an altitude of 1,490, say 1,500, feet above the Atlantic. Its length, assuming former data as the basis and computing it through the Itasca or west fork, may be placed at 3,160 miles."

Glazier's Account, "Am. Met. Journal," 1884, p. 327.

"Its (Lake Glazier's) height above the sea is an object of geographical interest, which, in the absence of actual survey, it may subserve the purposes of useful inquiry to estimate. From notes taken during the ascent it cannot be less than three feet above Lake Itasca. Adding the estimate of 1,575 feet, submitted by Schoolcraft in 1832 as the elevation of that lake, the Mississippi may be said to originate in an altitude of 1,578 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Its length, taking former data as the basis, and computing through the western fork, may be placed at 3,184 miles."

And finally Captain Glazier takes leave of his readers of the "Meteorological Journal" with a philosophic piece of reasoning, which he thought to be so fine that he also incorporates it into his letter to the Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society. Accounting for the fact that the source of the Mississippi had not before been discovered, he says: