

intermediate country; and such right was held good to the whole extent, but not wholly confirmed until another settlement was made at a distinct point upon the same territory beyond the water of the first, or so distant as not manifestly to encroach upon the establishments of the coast: other powers though might avail themselves of the failure of the first to occupy another principal stream, or distant point, and become thereby vested with a full right of sovereignty. This seems to have been the condition of America until the close of the war of 1812; since which time all treaties have yielded to the different powers, in full right, all they claimed, either by settlement, or from the failure of others to occupy the principal streams when they might do so. There is now no longer territory to be obtained by settlement or discovery, and, if there should be any difficulty, it will be where the different limits of the different powers shall be fixed.

Impressed with a belief, that, under this mode, valuable possessions might be added to the French monarchy, it is presumed, Sieurs Joliet, and Marquette, penetrated the unknown wilderness from Canada, and discovered the Mississippi so long ago as the year 1673, and explored it down to the Arkansaw. Perhaps encouraged by his success, a few years after, Hennepin visited those regions, and pursued that river to its mouth. His representations, with other considerations, two years after, induced M. de la Salle and M. Tonti, to descend that river with a considerable force to the Gulf of Mexico, and is believed to have built the fort during that trip, the bricks, and other remains of which, are now to be seen on the first high ground on the west side of the Mississippi, below the mouth of the White river.

After this period, in 1685, M. de la Salle, being on his return from France, landed on the west side of the Rio Colorado, in the bay of St. Bernard, and planted a considerable colony there, taking possession, in due and solemn form, in the name of the French king. Such were the discoveries which gave to France the country called Louisiana, from the Rio Grande del Norte, being the next great river to the west of that settlement, along the mountains of Mexico and New Spain west, as the western limits, and California as the eastern boundary. That France, and all other nations interested in its boundary, considered it in the same light, is ascertained in various ways, to the conviction of the most incredulous.

In consequence of these settlements and discoveries of the French, Louis the 14th granted, by letters patent, in the year 1712, to Anthony Crozat the exclusive commerce of that country, and defines its boundary, declaring that it comprehends all lands, coasts, and islands, situated in the Gulf of Mexico, between Carolina on the east, and Old and New Mexico on the west. The French title to these boundaries is farther established by the Chevalier de Champigny, who lived in the country, and declares Louisiana to extend to the Rio Grande del Norte, and the mountains of Mexico. This appears to be the opinion of other writers, who, it is presumed, had the most