

against the Iroquois, and to establish them around a fort, which he proposed to build on what is now called Starved Rock, in the valley of the Illinois. Returning once more to his seignory, he met Tonty at Mackinac, and the two paddled their canoes a thousand miles or more to Frontenac.

Here he appeased his creditors, obtained fresh advances, and began his enterprise for the third and successful time. His party of fifty-four rendezvoused at Fort Miami, in November 1688, and Tonty led the advance along Lake Michigan to the Chicago Portage, and so to the Illinois. La Salle followed a little later, and doubtless spent New Year's day of 1682 upon the site of our city, where he was snow-bound. The expedition journeyed down the Illinois upon the ice, reached the Mississippi in February, 1682, and floated down its waters until two months later they discovered its mouth. A column was erected bearing the arms of France, the name and titles of Louis XIV, and the date of the discovery, April 9, 1682. By that act France obtained her title to the valleys of the Ohio and the Mississippi, to which our nation has succeeded. And by that act civilization obtained a foot-hold on the banks of the Father of the Waters, and thenceforward steadily progressed along his lordly stream. And the name of the State of Louisiana to-day preserves the designation which La Salle gave to the whole of the