

THE BURSTING OF PIERRE MARGRY'S LA SALLE BUBBLE.

For nearly twenty years Mr. Pierre Margry has been holding over the heads of American scholars, with a great show of mystery, documentary evidence which was to prove to a certainty that his fellow, Norman Robert Cavelier, commonly known as La Salle, was the first to discover the Mississippi, and that he had been deprived of his just glory in favor of Joliet, son of a blacksmith, American born at that, and Marquette, a Jesuit. His first claim was that La Salle descended the Ohio and Mississippi to its mouth in 1670. This proving untenable he claims that subsequent to that date he descended the Illinois and Mississippi.

Articles by him have appeared in French journals, a fellow Norman, Gravier, adopted his views, but in this country there was a lack of faith. Bancroft had Margry's published articles and some of the documents in which he relied, but did not accept his positions. Mr. Faillon, writing from documents strongly prepossessed against the Jesuits, could not embrace his views. Mr. Parkman, to whom he furnished many documents, and who shows constantly Margry's influence, and who had apparently all that Margry relied upon, dared not compromise his reputation by adopting his theories. Harris, a bibliographer, dispassionately studying the question, found Margry's arguments most unsubstantial.