

formation acquired, grand and peace of conquerors of the Mississippi, noble Marquette and noble Joliet.

Since the discovery of Marquette's remains at Pointe Saint Ignace steps have been taken to rear a monument there to show the spot whence the expedition started, the spot to which the missionary explorer, dying like a brave soldier, doing duty to his latest breath, was borne from his temporary tomb.

This society may well rear a modest monument at Indian Point—Point Joliet, let us call it—to mark the termination of this adventurous voyage, and record that there, July 17, 1673, Marquette and Joliet considered their task accomplished in solving the great question. One face of the monument may also record that not far from that spot long lay, in an unknown grave, the remains of Pierre Liguette Laclede, the founder of St. Louis.

To-day Missouri recognizes fully the title of Joliet and Marquette as the first explorers, as Wisconsin has already done. Clear as the evidence was, the followers of La Salle in the seventeenth century, disputed their claim. In our day the Normans, Margry and Gravier, renew the controversy, raising a host of shadowy claims which vanish when you try to grasp them, each more unsubstantial than the last. They have only led to searches which brought to light maps and documents substantiating by a chain of testimony the claim of the two whom we honor.

Launching their canoes amid the farewells of their Arkansas friends, they began to stem the current of the river. They had descended the Mississippi for more than a thousand miles, borne onward by its current; now, in the midst of the heats of July, they were to toil painfully up. We have few details of this tedious passage, this long struggle of men weakened by the heats and confinement in a canoe; days passed in the same monotonous way. The shore offered no refuge in its swampy margin; no haven appeared where they could refresh and recruit till reaching the mouth of the Illinois River. Here they entered a gentler stream with inviting banks, a perfect paradise in their eyes.

At old Kaskaskia, on the upper waters of the Illinois, Marquette rested to inaugurate a mission; and, guided thence to Lake Michigan,

