

the Mississippi discharges into the Florida sea. This disappoints the hope of explorers that the river would offer a passage to the China sea; but they think that, by ascending the Missouri, some other river which flows westward may be reached. The writer—or, more probably, Joliet—suggests that a ship-canal might be built across the Chicago portage, to connect the Illinois River with Lake Michigan, thus affording a short and inland route from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Joliet recommends the Illinois prairies as suitable for French colonies.

CXXXII. This is a report to the superior, Dablon, of an expedition of observation around Isle Jésus, near Montreal, made by Father Antoine Dalmas, in September, 1674. He has been sent to inspect the island, to ascertain if there is any place suitable for the establishment of an Indian colony. He finds little to encourage this scheme, for such good locations as remain are subject to various disadvantages, the worst of which is the danger that traders will go thither, to sell brandy to the Indians. A hasty survey leads him to suggest that a better place might be found above the mouth of the Ottawa; "all the nearer country is either taken, or is poor, and a prey to the traders." After this general report, Dalmas gives a journal of his voyage, which covers six days.

CXXXIII. The *Relation* of 1673-74 was sent, as usual, to the French provincial by Dablon; we present in this volume all of the document except the report on the Montagnais mission, which will appear in Vol. LIX.

The Huron colony near Quebec is rapidly increasing in population. As these savages need more land and wood, the Jesuits have removed them to a new