

he made those memorable expeditions which culminated in the discovery by him of the Father of Waters. In the year 1673 he organized his little company. He took with him just five Frenchmen as companions and two Indians as guides. With these men he penetrated to the Mississippi, and floated down the stream in a canoe between the "broad plains of Illinois and Iowa, all garlanded with majestic forests and checkered with illimitable prairies and island groves." On his return north he was conducted by some Illinois Indians from the river that still bears their name to where Chicago now stands, and near it he preached for a time the Gospel to the Miamis. In the autumn he journeyed northward once more to Green Bay, where he was stationed about a year. It is held by some authorities that he returned to Point St. Ignace, but others believe he never again saw that place alive. His explorations were resumed in 1674, and his canoe was for the last time turned southward. He was ordered to visit the Illinois Indians, and from Green Bay he started down along the western shore of Lake Michigan to Chicago, performing the journey in his canoe. He reached what is now the Garden City on Dec. 4, 1674. It was the dead of a severe winter; the streams were frozen over, and the cold was intense, so he waited until the snows had disappeared before going further. In March he recommenced his travels, and visited the Indians, who were then living where the city of Rockford is now located. He laboured with the bands there for a season, but the hardships he had endured and the severities of the past winter began to tell upon him. His precarious health reminded him that his days were numbered; but, with that heroism which marked the great Livingstone, he was unwilling to give up the vast work which he felt was apparently just opening. He set out on his final journey, hoping at first to reach Point St. Ignace before death overtook him.