

**THE EXPEDITION OF DON DIEGO
DIONISIO DE PEÑALOSA, GOVERNOR OF
NEW MEXICO, FROM SANTA
FE TO THE RIVER MISCHIPI AND QUIVIRA
IN 1662, AS DESCRIBED BY FATHER
NICHOLAS DE FREYTA**

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The Expedition of Don Diego Dionisio de Peñalosa, Governor of New Mexico, from Santa Fe to the River Mischipi and Quivira in 1662, as Described by Father Nicholas de Freytas by John Gilmary Shea

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JOHN GILMARY SHEA

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SHEA'S PEÑALOSA.

THE
EXPEDITION
OF
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FROM SANTA FE TO THE RIVER MISCHIPI AND
QUIVIRA IN 1662,

AS DESCRIBED BY
FATHER NICHOLAS DE FREYTAS, O.S.F.

*With an account of Peñalosa's projects to aid the French to conquer the
Mining Country in Northern Mexico; and his connection with
Cavelier de la Salle.*

Drawn BY
JOHN GILMARY SHEA.



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"Yes,"

PREFACE.

THE following is a contribution to the early Spanish explorations towards the Mississippi from the west in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It includes the narrative of an expedition which reached the Missouri apparently, in 1662, under Peñalosa, Governor of New Mexico, who, falling subsequently under the ban of the Inquisition, went over to the French and formed a project for wresting northern Mexico from the Spaniards.

In this lies the real secret of La Salle's last expedition, and we are thus enabled to begin the unravelling of one of the most egregious falsifications of history on record.

The French government apparently suppressed all revelations as to the real character of La Salle's expedition, so that the theory of his being carried by the malice of his enemies beyond the Mississippi has been generally adopted by writers.

It is now clear that he went to Texas designedly to pave the way for Peñalosa's projected campaign.

This narrative will help to a better understanding of the early Spanish intercourse with Quivira, and, I think, shows that province to have been north of the Missouri River.

INTRODUCTION.

THE curious, vague, and bombastic account by Father Freytas was found in November, 1856, in the Deposito Hidrográfico of the Spanish government at Madrid, by the late Buckingham Smith.

It had been in the hands of the historian, Martin Fernandez de Navarrete, who made the following memorandum on it:

"A copy of this expedition in modern hand, which has served as an original, is in the possession of Don Bernardo de Yriarte, of the Royal Council of the Indies, who communicated it to me with the greatest complacency, as well as others relating to Quiros, interested in illustrating the history of our voyages. His collection included to the year 1768, but his useful and glorious project was baffled. This copy was compared with the original and corresponds.

"MADRID, July 18, 1791.

"MARTIN FERNZ. DE NAVARRETE.

"This Relation is perhaps the manuscript memoir in French which was in Thevenot's library, and is cited by Señor Barcia, p. 609 of his 'Epitome of the Bibliotheca Oriental of Pinelo.'"

At the beginning is this note:

"This Relation was given in the year 1684 by the same Count de Peñalosa to Monsieur de Seignelai, Minister of the Marine."