

**JOUTEL'S JOURNAL OF LA  
SALLE'S LAST VOYAGE, 1684-7;  
WITH A FRONTISPIECE OF  
GUDEBROD'S STATUE OF LA  
SALLE**

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Joutel's Journal of La Salle's Last Voyage, 1684-7; With a Frontispiece of Gudebrod's Statue of La Salle by Henri Joutel

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**HENRI JOUTEL**

**JOUTEL'S JOURNAL OF LA  
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GUDESROD'S STATUE OF LA SALLE  
AT THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION, ST. LOUIS, 1904.

JOUTEL'S JOURNAL OF  
LA SALLE'S LAST VOYAGE.

TO THE MEMORY OF

JOHN GILMARY SHEA, LL. D.,

THE INDEFATIGABLE HISTORIAN

OF THE

MISSIONS, LITERATURE AND HISTORY

OF THE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA,

AND A

MAN OF MODEST, PIOUS AND BLAMELESS LIFE

THIS,

THE FINAL VOLUME OF A SERIES PROJECTED

BY HIMSELF, OVER FORTY YEARS AGO,

IS

SINCERELY DEDICATED

BY

THE PUBLISHER AND EDITOR.

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

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This volume is the concluding one of a series projected by the late JOHN GILMARY SHEA, LL. D., on the "Discovery and Explorations of the Mississippi Valley." The initial volume, issued in 1852, comprises the Narratives of Marquette, Allouez, Membre, Hennepin and Anastase Douay. The second, issued in 1861, contains those of Cavalier, St. Cosme, Le Seur, Gravier and Guignas.

The present volume, giving Joutel's Journal of La Salle's third and last voyage, is reprinted from the first English translation of 1714, of the original French edition of 1713.

A *facsimile* reprint of the above English edition was issued (privately) by the Caxton Club of Chicago, in 1896, in an edition of 203 copies, and enriched by textual notes by Prof. MELVILLE B. ANDERSON, now of Menlo Park, California,—the result of his careful collation of the English with the French original. These notes, by the special permission of Mr. Anderson, have been incorporated in the present volume and indicated by his initials.

With a view, also, to render this edition as compendious a source of reference as possible for the student of this subject, we have added, by the courtesy of the author, the exceedingly full and valuable "Bibliography of the Discovery and Explorations in the Mississippi Valley," by Mr. APPLETON P. C. GRIFFIN, formerly of the Boston Public Library, now Chief Bibliographer of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.



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## *Historical Introduction.*

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### LA SALLE'S TWO PREVIOUS VOYAGES.

The earliest French explorers of the seventeenth century, among the great lakes and rivers of the North American continent,—Champlain, Nicolet, Marquette, Hennepin, Joliet and La Salle—were men of no common mould. Whether clerics, imbued with the enthusiasm of their holy faith, or laymen, dominated by the love of adventure and the prospect of adding to the wealth and glory of their beloved France, their ideals were sublime, their labors prodigious, their sufferings heroic, their perseverance indomitable. They possessed “the courage of their convictions;” and despite the difficulties, dangers, and reverses which befell them, their successive explorations all contributed to the result finally achieved by La Salle,—the discovery of the “Father of Waters”—the Mississippi.

“Second only to Champlain, among the heroes of Canadian history,” says John Fiske,<sup>1</sup> “stands Robert Cavalier de la Salle—a man of iron, if ever there was one—a man austere and cold in manner, and endowed with such indomitable pluck and perseverance as have never been surpassed in the world. He did more than any other man to extend the dominion of France in the New World. As Champlain had founded the colony of Canada, and opened the way to the great lakes, so La Salle completed the discovery of the Mississippi, and added to the French possessions the vast province of Louisiana.”

Réne Robert Cavalier, better known as La Salle, from the name of the family's estate, was born, in 1643, at

<sup>1</sup> “The Romance of the French and Spanish Explorers;” an article in *Harper's Magazine*, for February, 1882, by John Fiske.