

get out of their own prejudices, their own type of mind, their habits of thinking, and see what it was that was animating the life of the people in whose land they were coming; and the French were able to do that more readily than the English. The English have been more or less a stiff-necked people, and although I think the history of the English people has been a history of sincerity, it has been a history of a great deal of stubbornness in the persistence of some ideas that were absolutely ineffective in bringing together the two races; and as I say, all through the years that have passed since that time there has been much misunderstanding. The people who landed in New England, with their ideas of religion, felt that the Indian had no religion whatever, and the white man's religion, although the Indian showed in a great many cases his willingness to look into it, was an absolutely new thing to the Indian. We have simply been making an effort from that time down to get together, to understand each other, to get into each others' view points. I think that has been the greatest trouble in the amalgamation of the races.

The same failure to appreciate the viewpoint of the other race has existed when we have come to tell the story of the last three hundred years. The historians of the past, all the way through, have followed very largely the same attitude of misunderstanding. If you will take almost any historical treatise and look into the description of the exploration period I think you will find this to be true. Take, for instance, a common example—La Salle. I believe that you will find that the description of his explorations, instead of beginning with the land which he explored and the people who lived in the land which he explored, will go back into the little town in France where he was born, clear out of the surroundings in which his explorations lay, begin with his life in France, his early training, and follow him through the different experiences of his younger days, and then through his life in the St. Lawrence Valley, and so eventually reach explorations in the Mississippi Valley, and watch the events that followed from the standpoint of Europe. To my mind there is another standpoint that we must get hold of. The way to study the exploration of the Mississippi Valley is to get down into the Mississippi Valley before La Salle ever heard of it, and see what was being done there, see what the situation was, see what the surroundings were, and see what the natural resources were and who the people were who lived there, and what were their industries and their methods of life. Then when you have put into the readers' minds—the students' minds—an understanding of what was there and how the Indians thought and how they looked upon things, then, keeping that same standpoint, let these Frenchmen, these Europeans, come in. Then, understanding what the circum-