

1667. to restore them to the true path, and succeeded.¹ Three hundred Pouteouatamis also came from their islands, where the whole nation had gathered.² As soon as they arrived, the missionary visited them, and was received with distinction, though in quite an odd style. In the first place, the leader of the band asked him for his shoes: the Father gave them, and the Indian, after considering them attentively, handed them back, observing that it was among them a mark of respect. All charmed Father Allouez by their gentle manners, and the instructions which he addressed to them were not useless.³

Father Allouez and the Pouteouatamis.

Among them was an old man, close on his hundredth year, and who was regarded in his nation as a divine man. He fasted, it was said, as much as twenty days at a time, without taking any thing, and often saw the Author of all things;⁴ a term usually employed by these Indians to express the true God. He fell sick at Chagouamigon, and his life was soon despaired of. Two of his daughters who had been among the most assiduous auditors at the missionary's instructions, and had been touched by them, repeated to him all that they could recollect, and urged him to seek instruction himself. He consented. Father Allouez, notified by his two proselytes, paid him a visit, found him extremely docile, and, deeming him not long for this world, baptized him.

At this juncture the time for the Feast of Dreams⁵ arrived. The dying man called the missionary, and begged of him a blue blanket. The missionary wished to know his

¹ Relation de la N. F., 1667, p. 15.

² The Relation de la N. F., 1667, p. 18, does not state that they lived on islands. "Their country is in the lake of the Iliniouek." Their language was an Algonquin dialect, more difficult to understand than the Ottawa. Their original country was the lower peninsula of Michigan, from which they were driven as early as 1639: Rel., 1640, p. 35.

They then settled on Huron island and the shores of Green Bay: Rel., 1670, p. 95.

³ The chief asked to look at his shoes from curiosity; and when that was gratified, replaced them with every mark of respect: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1667, p. 18.

⁴ The Maker of the Earth: Rel. de la N. F., 1667, p. 18.

⁵ See Perrot, pp. 14, 171.