

At last, after more than eight months' stay in this wretched place, where he lived on little else than acorns and the bark of trees pounded, with a little oil to season them, he was invited by some Hurons who had settled in the island of Chagouamigon' or St. Michael, at the western extremity of the lake. Some of the Frenchmen in his party had made the journey, and used every endeavor to divert him from undertaking it: they assured him that it was, at least, a hundred leagues; that the roads were fearful; and that it was against all the dictates of prudence to undertake it in his exhausted state. He replied, that he could not end his course more gloriously than in seeking to gain souls to Christ; and on the 13th of June, in the year 1661, he set out with John Guerin, a very holy man, who had been for over twenty years in the service of the missionaries.<sup>2</sup>

1662.

Adventures  
of Father  
Mesnard.

He parted regretfully with the other Frenchmen and his neophytes, who had hitherto been his sole comfort. On taking farewell, he was deeply affected, assuring them that they would no longer see him in life; and he left them deeply touched to see him hasten to almost certain death. Some Hurons had come to serve as his guides; but as they approached their village, they left him, saying that they were going to seek provisions. Father Mesnard, feeling exhausted, stopped to wait their return; but when two weeks passed without any one appearing, he set out in a canoe, which he chanced to find on the bank of a river.<sup>3</sup>

On the 20th of August,<sup>4</sup> he was obliged to walk some distance to avoid a rapid; and while his companion was engaged in carrying over the canoe and loading it, the

<sup>1</sup> This name is generally given to a celebrated bay opposite St. Michael's island, but it is the proper name of the island itself.—*Charlevoix*. The *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1663, p. 20, does not say

that the Hurons were at Chagoune-  
gon; nor is it the fact.

<sup>2</sup> *Relation de la N. F.*, 1663, p. 21.

<sup>3</sup> *Ib.*

<sup>4</sup> 10th of August: *Relation*, 1663, p. 21.