

tions against the Illinois only the vices of that corrupt nation.¹

1700.

But it was Christianity, which they sincerely embraced, that completely bound the Illinois nation to our interest. Add to this the firmness of the Chevalier de Tonti, and the sagacious conduct of the Sieurs de la Forêt² and Delietto, the latter a relative of Chevalier de Tonti. These three officers long commanded in the country of the Illinois, and acquired a great ascendancy over their minds.

Before the first discovery of the Micissipi, the Illinois were scarcely known in Canada,³ Father Marquette and Sieur Joliet on their way down that river passed by some of their towns, where they were very well received, and Father Marquette when he died was preparing to go and settle among them.⁴ Then la Sale, preparing to complete the discovery begun by that missionary, first thought of establishing posts among the Miamis and Illinois to serve as centres for his trade. As he had several Recollect Fathers with him, it was his design that they should establish a mission among the Illinois; but they were always too much employed among the French and too much diverted by the excursions which de la Sale compelled them to

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¹ Others drew a more favorable picture of the Illinois. Compare Rale and Marest in the *Lettres Edifiantes*; Marest, in *Relation des Affaires du Canada*, p. 43; Penicaut, *Relation*.

² Francis Daupin, Sieur de la Forest. Parkman, *Discovery of the Great West*, p. 188.

³ They are first met at Chagoimegon in 1667 by Allouez, and soon after by Marquette, who projected an Illinois mission. Allouez afterwards found some on the Fox River, and Marquette, soon after entering the Mississippi by the Wisconsin, in June 1673, found the Peorias and Moingwena, two Illinois tribes, on the western bank of the river. On

his way up, he met the Peorias and then the Kaskaskias on the Illinois River. He began the mission promising to return. Having obtained the necessary permission, he set out in Sept. 1674, wintered at Chicago, reached the Kaskaskia town and again preached to them, but finding his illness increase, endeavored to reach Michilimackinac, but died on the way May, 19, 1675. In 1677, Allouez was there laboring, and continued till 1679, retiring on la Sale's approach.

⁴ Had just visited them; see *Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi*, p. 53; Dablon, *Relation*, 1673-9, p. 100. Compare ante, iii., p. 182.