

1700.

make, to gain any proselytes among these Indians, whose language they had not even time to learn.<sup>1</sup>

After their departure, and that of de la Sale, the Chevalier de Tonti was left sole commandant among the Illinois, and Father Allouez, whom we have had frequent occasion to mention in this history, and who had settled among the Miamis, had more than one opportunity to visit that nation, and wished to see whether he would find in them a greater disposition to receive the gospel, than he met among those whom he had for some years cultivated with but little fruit; but he soon perceived that they had even less, or that intercourse with the French raised more obstacles to their conversion, and he returned to his mission on St. Joseph's River, where he died full of days and merit.<sup>2</sup>

Mission  
among  
these  
Indians.

At last various events, disposed doubtless by Providence, and also the news of la Sale's death having scattered the French among the Illinois, Father Gravier deemed the moment favorable for laboring for the salvation of that nation. He took up his residence at the Rock, at the very spot where Fort St. Louis had been.<sup>3</sup> There ere long he gathered quite a numerous flock, and soon had the consolation of seeing among these Indians, hitherto so justly derided for their corrupt life, examples of virtue as striking as had been admired in the most flourishing missions in Canada, and the few survivors of that nation, formerly one

<sup>1</sup> The Recollect Fathers, Gabriel de la Ribourde, Zenobius Membré, Louis Hennepin, were among the Illinois from January 1680; the last till he set out for the upper Mississippi, the former till September, when Tonti and his party retreated. On the way Father Gabriel was killed by the Kickapoos, Sept. 19. Le Clercq, *Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 173-9. The place of his death is said to be near Crow Creek, Mar-

shall Co. Ford's *History of Putnam and Marshall Counties*. See ante, vol. iii., p. 212.

<sup>2</sup> Claude Allouez died about August 1690; ante, iii., p. 186. His last visit to the Illinois that we know was in 1687. Tonti, *Memoire in Margry, Relation, &c.*, Louisiana Hist. Coll., i., p. 70.

<sup>3</sup> Near the present village of Utica. Parkman, *Discovery of the Great West*, pp. 204-5, 231.