

toilsome journey. At the close of September, they reach the De Pere mission.

CXXXVII. This is Marquette's (unfinished) journal of his second voyage to the Illinois tribes—a journey with pathetic ending, for he dies on the way, while striving to reach Mackinac. Departing from De Pere October 25, 1674, accompanied by two Frenchmen, he enters the waters of Lake Michigan via the portage at Sturgeon Bay. There they fortunately meet a party of Illinois Indians, who desire the Father to go under their escort. Now begins a long and tedious voyage, so interrupted by storms and severe cold that it is not until December 4 that the party reach Chicago River. The Father is again ill, on account of his privations and hardships, and finds himself unable to proceed farther. Accordingly, Marquette and his two Frenchmen spend the winter at the portage,—alone, except for occasional visits from the savages. Early in January, a French trader in that region hears of the Father's illness, and sends him food by a surgeon who is with him. The Illinois savages, among whom he had intended to carry on a mission, also bring him gifts, and beg him to come and dwell with them.

In February, Marquette's health begins to improve, owing to his devotions to the Virgin. The last week in March brings a south wind, and the river opens; a sudden freshet nearly carries away the Frenchmen and their goods. This gives them, after various delays, an opportunity to resume their journey; but it is not until April 8 that they reach the Illinois village. Marquette's journal ends upon the 6th, while he and his men are awaiting favorable weather to descend the Des Plaines River.