

CXXXVIII. In this document, Dablon briefly relates this second voyage of Marquette, adding details of his death, and of the removal (1677) of his bones to Mackinac. After reaching the Illinois village, the Father holds (three days before Easter) a great council, where over 1,500 men are present, besides the women and children. He explains to them the mysteries of the faith, and celebrates mass; and on Easter Sunday holds similar services. The savages listen with delight, and would gladly retain him among them; but his malady is so increasing that he is compelled to depart. He sets out for Mackinac, hoping to reach the mission-house there in time to die within its walls; but his strength fails so rapidly that he is obliged to land near Ludington, Michigan, where he dies on the same day (May 18, 1675). His faithful companions there inter his body, which is removed two years later, by some of his Ottawa disciples, to the St. Ignace mission at Mackinac. There it is reinterred, with all the solemnity possible; and this tomb becomes a favorite resort for the Christian savages. The document closes with "a brief summary of his virtues," prominent among which are his zeal and meekness, and his devotion to the Virgin.

CXXXIX. For the year 1675, Dablon sends to his provincial an account of "the present condition of the missions in New France." It begins with a brief survey of the Ottawa mission, followed by the account of Marquette's last voyage and death which we present in Doc. CXXXVIII.

At Sault Ste. Marie, with its dependent missions on the islands and northern shore of Lake Huron, over one hundred and twenty persons have been