

Letter of Father Jacques Gravier to the Very
Reverend Father Michelangelo Tam-
burini, General of the Society
of Jesus, at Rome.

PARIS, march 6, 1707.

VERY REVEREND FATHER,
I arrived here not long ago from our missions among the indians commonly called Illinois, situated near the great river Mississipa, which flows into the gulf of mexico. . . . I traveled by ship more than 2,000 leagues,—not with the intention of [finding] some one who might extract from the middle of my arm the stone arrow-head which is riveted there for the rest of my life (the Four other arrows which the same barbarian shot at me in hatred of the faith, apart from piercing my ear, hardly wounded me); but I performed the journey, urged by anxiety to procure from the Reverend Father General workers whom our missions greatly need, and especially, for a decision in the cases referred to Your Paternity. Those indeed concerning the contracting of marriage by a christian with an infidel are of the greatest importance for the strengthening of christianity. . . .

In my village, which is five hundred leagues distant from Quebec, and which consists of about three thousand souls,—unless, during the pastor's absence, the flock be dispersed for a time,—I have