

CLXXXI

We obtain this letter of Gabriel Marest to Jean de Lamberville (n.p., ca. 1706), from *Lettres édifiantes*, tome vi., pp. 1-31, of the Toulouse edition of 1810. Our bibliographical colleague, Victor Hugo Paltsits, of the Lenox Library staff, contributes the following notable bibliography of this interesting publication:

DATA CONCERNING THE "LETTRES ÉDIFIANTES."

In selecting from the *Lettres édifiantes* such Jesuit material as relates to New France, we follow the Toulouse edition, published in 1810-11, and which we describe below *in extenso*, in its proper chronological sequence.

The collection of *Lettres édifiantes* deals with the missions of the Jesuits in both hemispheres, and is invaluable for a history of the order's missionary zeal and enterprise, and for the history, ethnology, and general characteristics of the peoples among whom it labored. But to the bibliographer these volumes present one of the greatest problems in the whole field of Jesuitica. It shall be our endeavor to contribute a fuller and more particular bibliographical description of this collection in its various editions and ramifications, than has yet appeared in print. However, though having labored for completeness, we are sensible of some gaps, and our data must be accepted only as materials toward a final and complete study of the whole subject involved herein.

The First Edition

The first edition was completed in 34 volumes, some of which were issued several times before the