

vessel, and carries off many persons; and the annoyance caused to the officers and the priests by certain abbés of the bishop's suite—ignorant, conceited, and quarrelsome men, “whom he had collected from the streets of paris.” Nau relates various items of news regarding the mission stations assigned to himself (Sault St. Louis) and to other priests; a proposed expedition to the Western Sea; and rumors about white men who dwell in the great unexplored region beyond the Mississippi.

CCV. Pierre Aulneau announces (April 25, 1735) to a friend his near departure for the West, where he is to undertake a mission among the Sioux. His first effort will be to learn the languages of these and other Western tribes, who are almost entire strangers to the French. He asks his friend to urge in France that more missionaries be sent to America, where they are greatly needed; seven or eight of the missions there have been abandoned, for lack of workers. Aulneau praises the zeal and devotion of those who are engaged in this holy enterprise, and especially thus mentions the late Father Guesnier. The death of this priest is mourned by all, and his garments, and even his hair, are eagerly seized as holy relics by the people of Quebec and vicinity.

CCVI. Aulneau sends to another Jesuit, named Bonin, a similar letter, but giving more details of his proposed Western journey, which is one of exploration as much as of missionary labors.

CCVII. A short letter (dated June 12, 1735) from Aulneau to the same friend, is written from Montreal, on his way to the West. News has arrived, after a silence of three years, from Guignas, who has