

Letter of Father Mathurin le Petit, to Reverend  
Father Franciscus Retz, General of the  
Society of Jesus, at Rome.

VERY REVEREND FATHER,

The Louisiana Mission mourns, for it has this year been deprived of two Missionaries. On the 6th day of february, Father Gabriel Guymoneau, of the province of france, after 20 years spent in the Illinois Mission, was carried off by an attack of pleurisy that lasted six days,—to the great regret of all, even of the Indians, whose nature he had already softened by the remarkable purity of his morals, and the example of all his apostolic virtues.

On palm sunday the fortune of war took from us Father Senat, of the province of toulouse; he had been in charge of another mission of the Illinois in the same country for 18 months only, but was already skilled in the language, and was still more remarkable for his zeal. For the purpose of giving spiritual assistance, he accompanied an army composed of french and indians against Barbarians called tchikakas, who are enemies of this colony. The result of this was unfortunate. Our men were either slain by the enemy or put to flight. Father Senat might, as many had done, have sought safety in flight; but, refusing a horse that was offered him, he preferred yielding to the fury of the barbarians, rather than leave without Spiritual succor the brave head of the army and the french, whom he saw