

Letter written by Reverend Father Nicolas de
Gonnor.

MY REVEREND FATHER,
Several reasons have induced me to write you this letter: First, to assure you that I have always borne for your Reverence an esteem bordering on veneration, and that my respect and devotedness for you personally are beyond expression. I have more than once reproached myself with not having sooner given you some token of my sentiments in this respect, and for having deferred the accomplishment of this duty. I wish now to express my lasting gratitude for your kindness to me on many occasions, especially while I was an inmate of the Seminary of Luçon, which you governed for so long a time with as much wisdom as success. Another reason for writing you is to beg you to break as gently as possible to Father Aulneau's mother the news of the death of her dear son, who, we have learned but lately, was slain last May by a party of wandering savages, called the scioux of the prairies, While he was journeying from his own to another mission, with the intention of going to confession and of seeking advice on troubles to which his extreme delicacy of conscience had given rise. He is universally regretted by both the members of the society and by seculars, for he was universally esteemed. Last year, he preached during