

## PREFACE TO VOL. LXIX

Following is a synopsis of the documents contained in this volume:

CCXII. Mathurin le Petit, Jesuit superior of Louisiana, writes (June 25, 1738) to the general of the order, narrating the martyrdom of Antoine Senat, who was burned at the stake by the Chickasaw savages, with other Frenchmen captured by them. The superior briefly outlines the work being done by his order in Illinois and Louisiana; there are four priests in the former district, and two in the latter. Two other missions are carried on among remote Southern tribes; but they have as yet made no conversions, on account of the savage propensity to drunkenness, and "the evil conversation of the english."

CCXIII. A letter (dated October 12, 1739) from Nau to Madame Aulneau, mother of the missionary of that name, thanks her for gifts to his mission. He tells her that the Sioux Indians, some of whom murdered her son, have been "so often defeated by the french that they have finally sued for peace." La Vérendrye has discovered a tribe of pale-faced savages. An inexhaustible mine of copper has been discovered at Lake Superior. Nau's colleague, La Bretonnière, has gone to the South with the Iroquois warriors who are aiding the French to subdue the