

these formed a little library, valuable in a country newly established, and they prayed the Capuchin Fathers to accept it.

Still other persons of the town, even more distinguished, gave the Jesuits proofs of friendship, which, on this occasion, were not suspected. Monsieur the Procurator-general honored them with a visit, and assured them of the pain that he experienced in discharging toward them a disagreeable duty. A little before their departure, Monsieur d'Albadie, commissary-controller, delivered to them a letter which he had written in their favor to Monsieur the duke de Choiseul, secretary of State for the marine, and which they were to present in person. In this letter he asked, for each one of them, a pension; and, before closing it, he had it read to one of them; in this letter he gave evidence favorable to their conduct.

However, the Jesuits perceived that their departure was desired. The season was disagreeable, it being still the month of January, the time for rough seas. But an entirely new and well-built ship presented itself; it was *La Minerve*, of Bayonne, commanded by Monsieur Balanquet, a famous ship-owner in the last war, and very much esteemed for his integrity. These reasons determined the Jesuits to embark upon this ship. There were two, however, out of their band of six, who parted from them. Father de la Morinie, remembering that he had suffered upon the sea every evil that can be felt there, almost to death itself, postponed his departure until spring, when the sea would be calmer; and Father Meurin asked the Gentlemen of the Council for permission to return to the Illinois. This was a brave resolution,