

differing, as many do, in religious opinion from this school of ecclesiastics, it is almost impossible to do them justice.

As a whole, their history has been little studied and less understood. They have neither had their Livy nor their Polybius; and if the history of these men, of their exertions, of their influence, of their actions, for good or evil, ever is to be written with candor, *it must be written in this country*—the scene of many of their labors, and we might well add, of their sufferings and their death. No subject would form a more imposing theme for the historian; none demands higher qualifications, more laborious research, and above all, the most dignified superiority to all the prepossessions of age, of country, and of creed. The individual who has closely examined the colonial history of the North-Western Territory cannot but be struck with the truth of the remark, that “neither commercial enterprise nor royal ambition carried the power of France into the heart of our Continent; the *motive was religion*.” The same religious feeling which prompted our pilgrim fathers to plant the banner of the cross on the sterile rocks of Plymouth, carried it to the borders of the Mississippi; and while the influence of Calvin is felt in the worship and schools of New England, the no less powerful impulses of Loyola, and his followers have left their marks upon the whole Algonquin race, who dwelt on the borders of the Illinois and the Wabash. The morning matin and the evening vespers were heard amidst the war-whoop of the Indian, and the symbol of the Christian’s faith, to this day hangs in bold relief above the girdle which suspends his tomahawk. The history of the Jesuits’ labors is connected with every tribe from the waters of the *Lac Tracy* to where *La Belle Riviere* flows into the *Michasippa*—“not a cape was turned, nor a river entered, but a Jesuit led the way.” From the period when Charles Raymbault and Isaac Jogues accepted the invitation of the Chippewas to visit their tribe at the Sault St. Marie, in 1641, down to the middle of the eigh-