

structure built by Père Marquette;" while within there hangs a picture which we are soberly told by the cicerone was "given by the pope of that time to Marquette, for his mission church in the wilderness." It is strange how this fancy was born; stranger still that it persists in living, when so frequently proved unworthy of credence. It is as well known as any fact in modern Wisconsin history,—based on the testimony of living eye-witnesses, as well as on indisputable records,—that upon July 27, 1835, five years after Warren had introduced Ayer to Madelaine Island, there arrived at the hybrid village of La Pointe, with but three dollars in his pocket, a worthy Austrian priest, Father (afterwards Bishop) Frederick Baraga. By the side of the Indian graveyard at Middleport, he at once erected "a log chapel, 50x20 ft. and 18 ft. high," and therein he said mass on the ninth of August, one hundred and sixty-four years after Marquette had been driven from Chequamegon Bay by the onslaught of the Western Sioux.¹ Father Baraga's resuscitated mission,—still bearing the name La Pointe, as had the mainland missions of Allouez and Marquette,—throve apace. His "childlike simplicity," kindly heart, and self-sacrificing labors in their behalf, won to him the Creoles and the now sadly-impoorished tribesmen; and when, in the winter of 1836-37, he was in Europe begging funds for the cause, his simple-hearted enthusiasm met with generous response from the faithful.

Returning to La Pointe in 1837, he finished his little chapel, built log-houses for his half-starved parishioners, and lavished attentions upon them. Says Father Verwyst, himself an experienced missionary among the Chippewas, "In fact, he gave them too much altogether — so to say — spoiled them by excessive kindness." Four years later, his chapel being ill-built and now too small, he had a new one constructed at the modern village of La Pointe, some of the materials of the first being used in the second. This

¹See Verwyst's *Missionary Labors*, pp. 146-149. This chapel was built partly of new logs, and partly of material from an old building given to Father Baraga by the American Fur Company.