

sufferings endured by them there—hardest of all for the Father, who is old, and spent by many years of toil and exposure. He baptizes some dying children, and gains a few adult converts; but the Ottawas, excepting these, treat him with indifference, and even brutality. The Father hears of a Huron band who have fled from the cruel Iroquois¹ into the depths of the great forests in Wisconsin; they are safe from their enemies, but are starving to death. Ménard sets out to visit them, despite all remonstrances from his companions. His savage guides leave him with one Frenchman, promising to return soon for them. As the Indians do not come, the Frenchmen finally proceed alone; but the Father, becoming separated from his companion, disappears from sight, and cannot be found by any search. Later, articles belonging to him are found among the savages; but it is not known whether he was murdered by Indians, or starved to death.² The following extract from the *Relation* vividly describes the hardships of the early explorers and missionaries:]

The poor Father and the eight Frenchmen, his Companions, setting out from Three Rivers on the 28th of August in the year 1660 with the Outaouax, reached the latter's country on the 15th of October, saint Theresa's day, after enduring unspeakable hardships, ill treatment from their Boatmen, who were utterly inhuman, and an extreme scantiness of provisions. As a result, the Father could scarcely drag himself along, for he was, besides, of a delicate constitution and spent with toil; but, as a man can still go a good distance after growing weary, he had spirit enough left to gain his hosts' Quarters. A man known as le Brochet ["the Pike"], the head of this Family,—proud, extremely vicious, and possessing four or five wives,—treated the poor Father very badly, and finally forced him to leave him and make himself a hut out of fir-branches. Heavens, what an abode during the rigors of Winter, which are well-nigh

¹ More exact information regarding the flight of this Huron band is given by Perrot; see p. 17, *ante*.—Ed.

² Regarding the life, labors (1640-61), and death of Ménard, see H. C. Campbell's monograph thereon, Parkman Club *Publications*, No. 11 (Milwaukee, 1897).—Ed.