

his labors with these people, and of the conversions occurring among them. Bands of the Sacs and Foxes also sojourn near Chequamegon, to whom Allouez preaches the faith; and he baptizes some of their children.

The seed of the true religion has been carried among the Illinois tribes by some of their own people, whom Allouez has instructed. He regards that nation as offering a most promising field for missionary labor; he finds them friendly, and more inclined than other tribes to recognize a Supreme Being. He describes a ceremony peculiar to them, the calumet dance.

He meets also some wandering Sioux and Cree savages; regarding all these distant tribes, he gives much curious information gathered from conversation with these people. The Crees invite him to spend the winter with them; but he cannot leave his present field to do so. The Nipissing Indians (in the days of the Huron mission, instructed by the Jesuits) have been driven by fear of the Iroquois to Lake Nepigon, where Allouez visits them—crossing the western end of Lake Superior in a frail canoe, three men paddling without any halt for twelve or fifteen hours each day. He finds among these people twenty professed Christians, as well as many infidels; and he spends there two weeks of constant ministration and instruction.

Le Mercier concludes, from Allouez's report, that missionaries to the Northwest should have a fixed residence, with men to work for their maintenance and to erect chapels for religious services. This is Allouez's own plan, to execute which he descends to Quebec for aid. He obtains Father Nicolas,¹ with five men, and supplies of food, clothing, etc.; but the Indians with whom he has come down are ill-humored, and refuse to take more than three Frenchmen, with but a small part of their baggage. There is, accordingly, "reasonable doubt whether they can reach the country; or, if they do so, of their ability to maintain themselves there very long."

At Lake Superior [1669], Allouez has been laboring with

¹Louis Nicolas was one of the Jesuit missionaries in New France from 1664 to 1675; returning then to France, he left the Jesuit order three years later. His labors were mainly in Lower Canada.—Ed.