

In 1668 Claude Dablon and James Marquette proceeded to Saint Ste. Marie for the purpose of establishing a permanent mission. Of the personal history of the former little is known, but the latter was in the prime of life, highly educated, and fitted to adorn the court of Louis; but he sacrificed all of these advantages, and passed his life among a race comparatively low in the scale of intellectual organization. From this period Saint Ste. Marie dates its settlement; and it is therefore, as Bancroft remarks, the oldest within the limits of the State of Michigan.

The following year Marquette succeeded Allouéz at La Pointe, and the latter removed to Green Bay.

In May, 1671, a grand council assembled at Saint Ste. Marie. The chiefs from fourteen of the tribes of the Northwest and the soldiers of France sat in council together. Mr. Tallon, then governor general of New France, had sent there Monsieur de St. Lussou to take possession, in the name of his Majesty, of all lands lying between the east and west, and from Montreal to the South sea, as far as it could be done. When assembled, the ambassador selected a hill above the village, planted the cross, and raised the arms of the King. The cross was first blessed with all the ceremonies of the Church by the Superior of the missions; and while it was being raised, the *Vequilla* was chanted by the assembled Frenchmen, to the great admiration of the savages. The shield of France was suspended from a cedar post above the cross while they were chanting the *Exaudiat*, and prayers were offered for the sacred person of his Majesty. St. Lussou formally took possession of the lands; after which guns were discharged, and other manifestations of joy exhibited. Father Allouéz was present, mindful of the interests of his divine as well as temporal master.* The same year Marquette removed to St. Ignace, north of Mackinac. Here he built a chapel, and gathered about him the wandering Hurons. Marquette and Dablon made numerous excursions to the tribes which dwelt in the territory now embraced in northern Illinois and eastern Wisconsin. Marquette, like Allouéz, had heard marvellous accounts of the region beyond the Great Lake, and longed to explore it; but it was not until the year 1673 that he was enabled to carry his project into execution. His route lay up the Fox river, through Lake Winn-

*Allouéz pronounced the following panegyric on the King, which is worthy of being preserved:

"It is a most important affair which calls us together. Cast your eyes on that cross, which is so high above your heads. 'Tis there where the Son of God was willing to be attached and to die, in order to satisfy His eternal Father for your sins. He is the master of our lives, and also of heaven, and earth, and hell. It is He of whom I have so often spoken, and whose name and word I have borne into these distant lands. But, at the same time, look upon that other column, to which are attached the arms of that great chief of France, whom we call King. He lives beyond the sea. He is the chief of chiefs, and has not his like in the world. All the chiefs whom you have seen, and of whom you have heard, are but children compared with him. He is like a great tree, while they are mere shrubs which we tread upon. You know Onnontio, (governor general), the renowned chief of Quebec. You know that he is the terror of the Iroquois, and that his name is sufficient to make them tremble, since he has desolated their lands; and carried fire among their settlements. There are beyond the sea ten thousand Onnontios like him; who are but warriors of that great chief, our King, of whom I speak. When he says 'I go to war,' everybody obeys, and these ten thousand chiefs raise bands of warriors both for the land and for the sea. Some embark in ships, like those you have seen at Quebec. Your canoe will hold but four or five men—twelve to the utmost. Our vessels carry four and five hundred, and even a thousand. Another portion go to war on land, but in such numbers that, when arranged in double ranks, they would reach to Mississauguen, which is twenty leagues from here. When he attacks, he is more fearful than thunder. The earth trembles, and the air and the sea are on

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