

## CLAUDE JEAN ALLOUEZ.

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If men must be judged by their works rather than by the results achieved, if motive and circumstance are an additional measure by which to gauge the worth of their deeds, then truly do the descendants of the Indian tribes of the Northwest, and the citizens of Wisconsin especially, owe a debt of gratitude to the memory of Claude Jean Allouez, "the Apostle of the Ottawas," and the builder of Wisconsin's first Indian missions.

"Father Claude Jean Allouez has imperishably connected his name with the progress of discovery in the West," says Bancroft, duly recognizing the worth of Allouez from a secular standpoint. But this remarkable man's work is that of a great missionary rather than that of a daring explorer, and his real worth is not realized by the superficial student of our early history. Studying the life of this "Apostle of the Ottawas,"<sup>1</sup> the old well-known lines of the *Psalm of Life* often came to my mind, and profoundly edified by the lessons of apostolic zeal and heroic perseverance contained in his long career of unremitting self-sacrifice, very different from that of early explorers and traders, I deemed it a pleasure and a duty to my native State to survey the life of this remarkable man, and to trace, even though it be with unskilled eye, "the footprints he has left behind him on the sands of time."

Claude Jean Allouez was born in the village of St. Didier (dans le Velay), which is situated southwest of Lyons, in the

<sup>1</sup> The word "Ottawa" was indiscriminately applied to the *Upper Lake Indians* who went down the St. Lawrence River to trade with the French in Canada. At Chequamegon Bay there was, however, one tribe which had come thither with the Hurons from Lake Huron. This was the Ottawa tribe proper.

See *Relations des Jésuites*, 1687, chap. viii., p. 17. (Quebec edition, 1858.)