

a bird's nest, to the mountain side, in the department of Aisne, is the small garrison of Laon, renowned in mediæval warfare, and the scene of one of Napoleon's tactical feats, against overwhelming odds, in the extraordinary campaign of 1814. The first family of Laon were the Marquettes, who distinguished themselves chiefly in arms, Jacques Marquette, namesake of the great explorer and missionary, having stood by the ill-starred John of France, in 1360, and three of the same name serving under Lafayette and Rochambeau during the revolutionary wars, as allies of the continental army.

The subject of our sketch was born at the family seat in 1637, and having been brought up in virtue and learning under the eye of his mother, who was a kinswoman of John Baptist de la Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers, he resolved to enter the Society of Loyola, in 1654, his 17th year. For the ensuing twelve years he devoted himself to teaching the higher branches of letters, being himself accomplished in all the science and literature of his time, but he felt a calling for a mission in foreign lands, and, in 1666, starting for Canada, landed at Quebec. He was assigned at once to Three Rivers, where he spent two years in acquiring a thorough knowledge of the Algonquin. On the 21st April, 1668, he started with three companions for Montréal, where he joined a band of Split-Noses (*Nez Percés*) and Father Nicholas Louis, and the party went forward in canoes, along the old historic water-ways, used up to thirty years ago, by trapper and ranger, nun and missionary, up the Ottawa to French River, thence across Lake Huron to Sault St. Mary's, where there was a halt. At the Sault, Marquette was ordered to pitch his tent and open a mission for the Iroquois, at the foot of the rapid. He wrought there with fruit for about one year, when he was despatched to a station on the northern tongue of land in Lake Superior, still bearing the same name of Lapointe, and applied himself to the acquisition of the language of