

Ménard met Laval, vicar apostolic of New France, afterward the first bishop of Quebec. It was an interesting scene, that meeting between the ascetic, high-minded Montmorency and the brave old missionary.

"Father," said Laval, "every consideration seems to demand your staying here; but God, who is stronger than all, wants you in those parts," pointing towards the West. [7]

This farewell greeting was a great consolation to Ménard. "How often," he wrote afterward, as he sat in a rude shelter on the shore of Keweenaw Bay, "have I revolved those words in my mind, amidst the torrent's roar and in the solitude of our great forests."

The flotilla ascended the Ottawa and Mattawan Rivers, crossed Lake Nipissing and descended French River to Georgian Bay. Thence the course lay west. They passed Sault Ste. Marie and coasted the southern shore of Lake Superior. To the aged missionary the journey was one of unparalleled hardship. The Indians, who near Montreal had forced Albanel to go ashore and return to the settlements, made Ménard carry heavy packs over portages and compelled him to paddle nearly all the time. They even, from superstitious fear, threw away his breviary, but in his baggage he afterwards found another one. Once, after they had obliged him to disembark, he had to make his way over frightful rocks and precipices in order to overtake them. He hurt his feet and leg, which remained swollen and sore during the rest of the voyage, especially as he had to jump into the cold water many times in order to lighten the canoe. Food became very scarce. Those were deemed well-fed who found a certain

[7] On October 29th, 1660, Laval wrote as follows to Pope Alexander VII.: "This summer a priest of the Society of Jesus left for a mission more than 500 leagues from Quebec. That country is inhabited by innumerable nations, who have never even heard of the Catholic faith. Seven Frenchmen joined this apostle; they to buy castors, he to conquer souls. He will surely have to suffer a great deal, and has everything to fear from cold, hunger, disease and the savages. But the love of Jesus Christ and the zeal for souls conquer all."—Archives of the Propaganda, vol. 256, p. 24.