

nopolis to Lake Michigan, about twenty-five leagues.

"Shortly after my arrival, I gave up Legros and Wabash-Town to the Mission of Fort-Wayne; and your Lordship having lately given a Pastor to Peru, my jurisdiction comprehends no more than seventy miles of country. The principal towns are Logansport, Cass County; Delphia, of Carroll-Country; Lafayette, of Tippecanoe; and Rochester, of Sulton: I have, besides, the spiritual direction of twelve or fifteen others of those infant towns which cover the American soil, as far as the most savage countries, and which are destined either to become very shortly of real importance, or to leave in the midst of our ancient forests the wrecks of fruitless attempts. Lafayette, the oldest of the chief towns, reckons only fifteen years of existence; and already from its active commerce, its elegant buildings, and numerous population, it might find an honourable place in a province in Europe. Logansport, its rival, seated at the confluence of the Eel-River and the Wabash, and the great canal of communication between Lake Erie and the Mississippi, is younger still: eleven years ago, a single family of French Canadians lived in this country, together with a branch of the Indian tribe of the Miamis. All the other towns are of more recent origin.

"If I begin by mentioning the towns of my Mission, it is not because my Ministry there receives the greatest consolation. Daughters of commerce, they live for it, and by it; Mammon is their god. But whilst awaiting until Catholicism may form homes of light and charity, they are now the points around which the emigrants gather by preference, to establish their farms, for the produce of which they will one

time or other find a vent in these towns.

"When I arrived, first, the bulk of the Catholic population was composed of Irish labourers, employed in deepening the Wabash and forming Erie Canal. Since six months back, the greater part of these wandering families have withdrawn to another canal at the extremity of Illinois. I had also, besides some faithful belonging to the nation of the Miamis, now scattered again in the neighbouring forests, a certain number of Indians of the excellent tribe of the Potowattomies, at present encamped around Lake Winymack, at thirty miles more to the north. You, my Lord, blessed their departure at South-Bend, and now they are beyond the Missouri.

"The Catholic population, such as it is at present, consists of a hundred and twenty-five families, almost all of Irish origin. Of this number but twenty-six belong to Logansport, the headquarters of the Mission; the others are scattered here and there in the towns, in the midst of the forests, and over the great prairies of the north, which they are cultivating; and wherever these children of the Church are found, there the ministry of the priests is demanded, there he must proceed to hear confessions, to offer the holy sacrifice, to baptize and preach: a ministry of continual fatigue and hard privations, it is true, but, even at this moment, rewarded & hundred-fold by the sight of the abundant fruits it produces.

"Generally, I set out to visit my flock every Sunday after Mass, or on Monday morning. I intimate beforehand my intended arrival, and several families assemble at the same farm; it results from this arrangement, that I am obliged to wait for them, and not being able to say Mass before eleven