

Kaministiquia. July 22nd, arrival at Michilimakinak. August 3rd, departure for Montreal."

In *The Aulneau Collection* are a number of letters bearing upon the Lake of the Woods massacre. They have particular reference to the death of Father Auneau, or Aulneau as it is always here spelled.

The first of these letters is from Father Nicholas de Gonnor¹ to a correspondent in France.² After some personal remarks he says:—

"Another reason for writing you is, to beg you to break as gently as possible to Father Aulneau's mother, the news of the death of her dear son, who, we have learnt but lately, was massacred last May by a party of wandering Indians, called the Sioux of the Prairies, while he was journeying from his own to another mission, with the intention of going to confession and of seeking advice on troubles to which his extreme delicacy of conscience had given rise. He is universally regretted by both the members of the Society and by seculars, for he was universally esteemed. . . .

"He was surprised with twenty other Frenchmen, but it is not known how they were put to death. No premonitory sign of distrust on the part of the Indians was noticed, nor were the victims tortured, as they are wont to be when prisoners are taken in battle. It is conjectured that they were surprised while asleep, and received their death blow unawares. The heads of all were then severed from the bodies.

"It is said, however, that from the position in which the Father's body was found, he must have been on his knees when he was decapitated, and one of the party who found him took possession of his *calotte*, remarking that poor as he was, he would not part with it for a thousand crowns." . . .

In 1739, Father du Jaunay, writing from Michilimakinac to Madame Aulneau, adds the following particulars:—⁴

"Concerning the circumstances accompanying the death of your dear son, here is what I have learnt from hearsay, and some of my sources of information seem trustworthy.

¹ Father Nicolas de Gonnor, according to a footnote at page 25 of *The Aulneau Collection*, belonged originally to the Province of Aquitaine. He was born November 19, 1691, and entered the Society of Jesus, September 11th, 1710. He came to Canada in 1725. In 1727 he was sent to the Sioux mission, and afterwards he was stationed some time at Sault St. Louis. In 1749 he had returned to Quebec; thence he was once more sent to the Sioux, where he was superior in 1752. He remained there until 1755, when he was transferred to Montreal, and the following year to Quebec, where he died, December 16, 1759. His Indian name was *Sarenhès*.

² *The Aulneau Collection*, pp. 87-89.

³ The skull-cap sometimes worn by clergy of the Church of Rome.

⁴ *Aulneau Collection*, p. 110-111.