

## Letter XLVI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PRÉCIS HISTORIQUES, BRUSSELS.

*John B. Duerinck, Missionary of the Potawatomes, America.*

UNIVERSITY OF ST. LOUIS, Dec. 28, 1857.

REVEREND FATHER :

A fatal and most deplorable accident has just deprived us of one of our most zealous and indefatigable missionaries. Father John B. Duerinck, superior of the mission of St. Mary's, among the Potawatomes, in the Territory of Kansas, perished on the 9th of this month, while descending the Missouri river in a small boat. This is an irreparable loss to this fine mission.

I cannot describe to you how deep is the affliction which this mournful news has caused us. The first report reached us on Sunday, the 18th instant. We were expecting him at St. Louis, whither he had been summoned by his superiors, in order to prepare himself for his last vows in the society. A letter dated November 24th, in which he announced his departure from the mission, had arrived some days before. The following is an extract :

"I intend to repair to the town of Leavenworth and thence to St. Louis, in the course of this week. The chiefs of the tribe, the warriors, sages, seniors, and young men, have all decreed to send a deputation to Washington, or rather two, one composed of Indians of the prairie, Pota-