

August 26, and wintered at Kaministigoya. The next year they arrived at Rainy Lake, and in 1732 built a fort on the shores of Lake of the Woods, which was called St. Charles after the chaplain, Charles-Michel Mesaiger, who, however, soon collapsed, and had to return to Quebec. Some one had to take his place to care for the garrison, but that was only incidental to announcing the gospel to the Assiniboels or Assiniboin, the Cristinaux or Cris, and the Oua Chipouïanes, who are none other than the Mandans whom Catlin made us familiar with at a much later period. Who was to go? The young priest lately ordained and scarcely over his almost fatal illness : Father Aulneau.

The proposition filled him with horror. Without counting the uninterrupted series of terrible journeys in the wilderness, and the privations to be endured, he did not know a single word of Mandan, Cris or Assiniboin, nor could any of his fellow-travellers teach him. Moreover, he was to be absolutely isolated from all religious assistance, two or three thousand miles from Quebec. There was to be no missionary near him. "I assure you," he wrote to Father Fay, "it is the hardest trial of my life, and I cannot face the situation without fearing for my salvation. The Superior has appointed me for this mission without any warning and without any regard for my intense aversion to it. I assure you it has cost me the greatest struggle to make up my mind to obey. May God deign to accept the sacrifice of my life and of every human consolation which I have made in this act of submission."

That act of submission won him the grace, for we find him writing later. "May God be blessed! Henceforth He can be my entire comfort and consolation. I have no other help than what Jesus dying on the cross will give me. What inspires me with confidence is that it is not of my own choice that I am exposed to so many dangers. From this out I must think only of the souls of the savages. The more I reflect on the sufferings before me, the more joy I feel that God has called me for the missions of that wretched country. My joy, however, would be complete if I had another Jesuit to go with me. Implore God to give me the grace not to be unworthy, by my sins, of his protection and mercy. Let us love God always and Him alone. Let us do all we can to be