

scholar and efficient scholastic is advanced to his course of theology at Toulouse, which studies last four years. About the year 1655 he received priestly orders, and after one year more of meditation and "study of self," was engaged as preacher at the Jesuit church of Rhodéz, France. While thus active in practical theology, he reached the thirty-fifth year of his life. He had almost despaired of realizing his long-felt desire, and his zeal had stood a long and severe test. "Obedience is better than sacrifice," he concluded, and trusted in Divine Providence.

At last a letter arrives from his superior at Toulouse (Père Rocette, S. J.), dated March 3, 1657. Eagerly he reads, and calmly laying the letter aside, and moved to the depth of his heart, exclaims in holy joy: "It is the Lord who grants me this grace. By a stroke of His right hand has He exalted me to this most sublime of all vocations. *Seigneur, je suis a vous!* Lord Jesus, I am thine!"*

The permission to become a missionary in New France and to sail for Quebec at an early date was granted. A career of missionary activity is opened which was to last over thirty-five years, and the results of which are wrapt up in innumerable acts of self-sacrifice and unflinching charity.

The young Jesuit who was soon to leave for the Far West seemed especially fitted by Providence for his arduous mission. A note, preserved in the Jesuit archives of France, and which, apparently, was written by Allouez's superior about the time of his departure, says in terse language of the prospective missionary:

"He is possessed of a vigorous constitution, of a fine mind and disposition, of good judgment and great prudence. He is

* Words quoted from Allouez's letters in Margry, *Decouvertes*, etc., vol. I., p. 65.