

my blood have I espoused it to me.' (Exod. iv. 25.) May our good Master, who has purchased them in His blood, open to them the door of His Gospel, as well as to the four allied nations near them.

Adieu, dear Father ; pray Him to unite me inseparably to Him. ISAAC JOGUES, S. J.

VII.

LETTER OF FATHER JOGUES TO HIS SUPERIOR.

MONTREAL, April, 1646.

REVEREND FATHER :

The letter which it has pleased your Reverence to write found me in my retreat and in the exercises* which I had begun, there being no canoe to carry our letters. I chose this time, because the Indians, being at the chase, allow us to enjoy a greater silence.

Would you believe that, on opening your letter, my heart was at first seized with a kind of fear that what I desire, and what my soul should earnestly desire, might not arrive. Poor nature, mindful of the past, trembled ; but our Lord, by His goodness, has given, and will again restore it calm.

Yes, Father, I will all that our Lord wills, and I will it at the peril of a thousand lives. Oh ! how I should regret to lose so glorious an occasion, when it may depend only on me that some souls be saved ! I hope that His goodness, which has not abandoned me in the hour of trial, will aid me still. He and I are able to trample down every difficulty that can oppose the project.

It is much to be '*in medio nationis prave*,' without Mass, without Altar, without Confession, without Sacraments ; but His Holy will and divine providence so will it.

He who, by His holy grace, preserved us without these helps for eighteen or twenty months, will not refuse us the same favor, for we do not thrust ourselves into this work, but undertake this voyage solely to please Him, without consulting all the repugnances of nature.

* To make a retreat or perform the spiritual exercises is to give a certain time, usually eight days, to silence, prayer, meditation, pious reading, and self-examination. This is required annually by the rules of some religious orders, and is a common practice with the devout in Catholic countries, where suitable houses are to be found adapted for this temporary retirement.