

On the last leaf of the manuscript will be found written with ink and in the style apparently contemporaneous with the original manuscript itself these words : " Fait par le P. Cl. Allouez pour le P. Marquette." The authorship is thus definitely assigned by the writer of this note to Père Claude Allouez, and as the handwriting of the text closely resembles that of this famous missionary, the authenticity of the document may be considered as probable if not actually confirmed. It is known that Père Allouez visited the Illinois tribes and opened missions among them fully three years before Père Marquette arrived among them. He was at that time without doubt the only person qualified to translate into or compose prayers in the Illinois dialect, for the use of his successor ; and it is therefore reasonable to surmise that during the early days of his missionary work, considering his imperfect knowledge of the Indian dialect, this little volume was Père Marquette's constant companion. We may picture him trudging from village to village, reading from its pages to the groups of wandering savages the quaint prayers and hymns of the ritual, accompanying these devotions by more or less luminous and intelligible explanations of the fundamental dogmas and mysteries of the catholic faith. As this volume was neither cumbersome in size or weight, it was doubtless not forgotten when in May, 1673, Marquette started with Jolliet on the unknown trail which eventually led them—the first white men—to gaze upon the eddying and muddy waters of the great Mississippi River. On these