

1612. without that, he added, they will think that I killed you. I will take care not to do it, said the sick man: you are perhaps one to kill me in fact, and use my letter to conceal your crime. The Indian understood what that meant, was ashamed of his folly, and begged the Father to implore God to restore him, that no suspicion might rest on him. I cite this example as very characteristic of the Indians: on many occasions, one would be tempted to believe them endowed with only half reason, while in numberless others they are more of men than ourselves.¹

What retards the progress of the gospel.

Meanwhile time passed and the colony lost rather than gained. The cultivation of the earth was no longer thought of, which made the French constantly dependent on the Indians for subsistence; and this alone was enough to check the progress of the gospel, by the contempt which this sad state drew on us from the Indians. In fact the missionaries could do little more than baptize the dying children when notified in time. The greatest evil, however, was the want of concert between them and those in command at Port Royal. It was impossible for the Indians not to perceive it, and the experience of all times shows that nothing is more injurious to the progress of Christianity.

Project of a new settlement.

Mr. de Poutrincourt had remained in France, and had become at variance with Madame de Guercheville,² who had entered into partnership with him only to bring him to the interest of the missionaries. As she saw that she had not succeeded, she thought seriously of removing them to some point where they would have nothing to do with him, and where they could labor, unimpeded, in the discharge of their ministry. Mr. de Champlain had made every effort, but in vain, to induce her to join Mr. de Monts, whose uprightness he guaranteed; but for the simple reason that Mr. de Monts was a Calvinist she would not

¹ Biard, Relation de la Nouvelle France, p. 41; Lescarbot, Histoire de la Nouvelle France (1618), p. 673. ² Poutrincourt was imprisoned. Letter in Lescarbot, Histoire de la Nouvelle France, 678.