

1640.

State of the
Mission of
Three Riv-
ers.

All that I have hitherto said regards especially the sedentary missions—that is to say, those of the Hurons and Sylleri; but they endeavored to proceed in the same spirit, and follow the same rule, as far as possible, in all the others. At Three Rivers, besides the Algonquins, who were ordinarily there in pretty large numbers, several nations from the most remote quarters of the North began to appear and remain during the pleasant season. The most important was the Attikamegues, whose chief residence was in the vicinity of Lake St. Thomas, which you find at 50° N., as you ascend the river, whose three mouths give name to this post. It did not require much to make this tribe relish the truths of Christianity. They were naturally docile, of a gentle disposition, and from the first conceived such an attachment to the French, that nothing could ever detach them.¹ Yet the progress of the faith among them was quite slow; because, as winter approached, they returned home, and when they descended the next year, it was necessary to begin their instruction anew, as on the first day.

Tadoussac.

A little flock of Christians was also formed at Tadoussac, a place long frequented more than any other by the Montagnez, the Papinachois, the Bersiamites, and the Porcupine tribe. They sometimes arrived all together, and more frequently one after another; but when their trade was over they returned home, or rather scattered in the forests and mountains, except a small number who wintered in the neighborhood of Tadoussac and gave the missionaries abundant occupation. From time to time some of these Fathers followed the Montagnez in their winter hunts, for which these Indians always selected the most frightful and uninhabitable places, because the game they sought was more plentiful there.²

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, called Poisson Blanc or Whitefish, De 1638, p. 21; 1641, p. 32; 1643, pp. la Potherie, Hist. de l'Am. Sept., i., 8-38; 1647, pp. 56-61; Creuxius, p. 294. See Creuxius, p. 367.
Historia Canadensis, pp. 283, etc.,
362, etc. The Attikamegues are also

² Relation, 1638, p. 2; 1641, pp. 3, 50; 1613, pp. 32-6.