

Miscou Island and the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence were also at the time one of the ordinary resorts of the Indians, the fisheries being very productive there; but the colony did not profit by fish or furs. French merchants, devoted solely to the gain they actually made, controlled the trade, without taking any steps to render it durable and solid. The ministry did not interfere with it or Acadia, which was also in private hands, and shut its eyes to the importance of these separate posts, which might have been a mutual support, had care been taken to fortify them and settle them gradually.

The Indians who came to trade on the Gulf of St. Lawrence were the same as those of Acadia; but they were more commonly called, in these parts, Gaspesians, from Cape Gaspé, where most of the vessels first anchored.¹ They were very mild, but remained so little at any one place that the missionaries, with all their care, could scarcely succeed in instructing them in the truths of religion. Father Charles Tursis had just fallen a victim to his zeal, having died of hardship in Isle Miscou, although, in a period of two years, he had baptized only one child.² Fathers Julian Perrault and Martin Lionnes,³ who were in his neighborhood, were not more successful, or less courageous or patient, in the exercise of this unfruitful apostolate.

In a word, wherever trade attracted the Indians a missionary was found to announce Christ to them; but their short stay in any one place did not permit the seed of the word of God to germinate in their hearts. It was only after a plan was devised of making them a little more

¹ For the Miscou mission, see Relation, 1635, p. 3; 1636, p. 75; 1642, p. 43, etc. As to the identity of the Gaspeians and Micmacs, see Historical Magazine, vol. v., p. 284.

² Charles Turgis died May 4, 1637 (Relation, 1637, p. 103). He had baptized one or two.

³ Martin de Lionne was there later. He arrived August 15, 1643 (Journal du Supérieur des Jésuites, MS. Rel., 1643, p. 36). He died in Acadia, January 16, 1661 (Carayon, Documents Inédits, xiv., p. 114). Perrault gives an account of his missions in Cape Breton in the Relation of 1635.