

1644. therefore, far removed from any idea that he had done aught for which Heaven should lay up any reward.

He returns
to Canada.
News which
he hears
there.

He was not even tempted to remain in France, where he received applause, and he in fact remained only till the departure of the first vessels that sailed for Quebec. He found the affairs of New France in a pitiful state. His beloved Hurons were everywhere a prey to the Iroquois, and for some time no tidings from their country had reached Quebec, unless to announce the defeat of a party or the destruction of a town. The number of Christians, nevertheless, increased daily, and their faith gathered strength in these very adversities which had so long retarded their conversion.

These times of storm and persecution have been in all infant churches seasons of plenty in all heavenly benediction, and have never failed to be fruitful in good Christians. Canada, to the close of the last century, was a very striking proof this truth, and we have seen many illustrious witnesses. I enjoyed even the happiness of living with some of those who were actors on that bloody stage, and who could, like Saint Paul, show on their bodies the marks of Christ. But not only were the apostles of New France not unworthy of being compared with the founders of the noblest churches, but some of their neophytes also recalled the fairest days of the Primitive Church; and I should deem myself wanting the fidelity of history were I, in deference to what is called the taste of our age, to pass over in silence the more wonderful facts of this kind that I find in the annals of Canada, and more capable of glorifying him who, from the heart of barbarism, could raise up true children to Abraham.²

At the very time that God seemed to have abandoned the Hurons to the fire and steel of the Iroquois, it was impossible to enter a town without meeting some of those

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 409; Lettre de M. Marie de l'Incarnation, à la Supérieure des Ursulines, p. 36.

² Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. lines, Sept. 29, 1642.