

1644. treated precipitately. Moreover, numbers of other Indians came in daily for instruction ; and two priests, who had also other duties to fulfil, were unequal to so great a task.

This last difficulty, however, was soon raised. All, including the governor himself, aided the missionaries in instructing the catechumens—women taking charge of those of their own sex ; and as it was perceived that grace acted even more efficaciously within than the most touching exhortation could without, at the end of eight days' assiduous labor all were deemed in a condition to receive baptism. Mr. de Maisonneuve was god-father to the Chief of the Isle, and Madame de la Peltrie god-mother—a sally of somewhat restless zeal (soon, however, to resume its even tenor) having brought her to Montreal.¹

Fervor of the Algonquin missions.

Father Vimond never had reason to repent his facility in receiving these Indians into the fold committed to his vigilance. Time did not relax their fervor. The whole was done by a kind of inspiration, and all recognized visibly what is one of the most important points of the science peculiar to apostolic men—that if the Author of Nature sometimes goes beyond the laws which he himself has established in the ordinary course of events, there are also occasions where his ministers should not confine themselves too scrupulously to the rules of measured prudence.

The whole Algonquin nation felt the effect of the events just occurred at Montreal, and gradually the number of Christians there exceeded that of the heathen. Three Rivers² and Tadoussac³ had also their Indian missionaries.

¹ Tesséhat—called, in Huron, On-desson, and by the French, le Borgne de l'Isle (Rel., 1646, p. 7)—was baptized March 9, 1643 : Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1643, p. 54 ; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 376 ; Faillon, *Histoire de la Colonie Française*, i., p. 461. The island which

he inhabited is the present Ile des Allumettes. It was here that Father Jerome Lalemant was assailed. See ante, p. 111.

² Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1643, p. 45.

³ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1643, p. 32 ; 1644, p. 55.