

1650-1. church, some writers, who saw it only in its decline, having endeavored to dim its lustre.¹ Whatever may have been their motives—and I leave the judgment to Him who alone has the power and right to sound the heart—what credit can be given to the authority of men who have had no other proofs for treating as false what occurred far from them, or before their day, than the fact that they were not witnesses?

The brandy trade begins to cause disorders in some missions.

At the time of which I speak, fervor was still everywhere very great, and told of the persecution and adversity which are almost always its attendants. Yet there began to be some disorders among the Christians who frequented Tadoussac; and, to the shame of the Europeans, it was they who gave occasion to the disgrace, while savages, scarcely baptized, used every exertion to arrest it. This was especially intoxication, for which the Indians have a tendency, which they did not know before they had means to gratify it, and of which they can scarcely be said to be masters when they have begun to form the habit.

The heads of the colony had too much religion and zeal not to oppose a trade which served as a bait to vice and fomented it; nor were they suspected, as some of their successors have been, of desiring to swell their incomes at the expense of religion and order. But at Tadoussac there were only missionaries without commandants, because we had never had a permanent settlement there; and whatever influence these religious derived from their character, their virtue, and the orders of the governor-general, they felt daily how feeble a rein an unarmed authority is against certain passions, and that the interest of religion is a motive almost incapable of touching hearts ruled by cupidity.²

¹ Charlevoix alludes, probably, to *Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, i., p. 533; La Hontan, vol. i., p. 21 and preface; De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, i., p. 303.*
² *Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1650, p. 40.* The missionaries strug-