

fidelity, you must always except eatables,—too tempting an object for the ever hungry savage, accustomed to view as common property whatever is necessary for life.<sup>1</sup>

These preliminaries were not, it would seem, such as to augur well for the success of the missionaries' undertaking. These religious were, nevertheless, regarded quite favorably in the towns which they visited; but this did not prevent them, in the midst of a capricious and ferocious people, without support or resource, and according to the expression of Christ, like sheep amid wolves, from having much to suffer, and being in almost constant danger of their lives. But to apostolic men these are but the assured pledges of an abundant harvest, and, full of confidence in the promises of the Lord of the vineyard, they thought only of putting their hands to the work. Taking up their residence in a town called Ihouhatiri,<sup>2</sup> they began by erecting a little chapel, which they dedicated to St. Joseph, and even gave the town the name of that holy patriarch.

The fruit of their labors during the first year was not very great—they were confined to the baptism of five or six adults;<sup>3</sup> but they were consoled by the happiness which they had in assuring the eternal salvation of a great number of children, who expired almost immediately after receiving the robe of justice. The difficulty experienced by these missionaries in converting the Hurons did not flow from their difficulty in obtaining a hearing, or even an admission that the Christian religion was based on reason. In fact, a savage must not be regarded as convinced as soon as he seems to approve the statements made him, because in general they dislike nothing so much as disputes; and sometimes, from mere complacency, sometimes from some interested motive, more frequently from indolence and sloth, they give every mark of perfect con-

First permanent mission among the Hurons.

August 5.

Obstacles to the conversion of the Indians.

<sup>1</sup> Sagard, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 30; Creuxius, *Hist. Canad.*, pp. 162, 409; Brebeuf, *Relation* (1636), p. 163. Caragouha of Champlain, *Voy. 120*; Bressani, *Breve Rela.*, p. 13. 1619. (Ed. Laverdiere, p. 28.)

<sup>2</sup> Ihonatiria, *Relation* (1635), p. <sup>3</sup> Relation (1635), pp. 37, 38.