

them to abandon the project. The chief reasons are, that these nuns were not in a position to meet the expense necessary to carry out the project, and that the Indians themselves will not easily renounce the pleasure of having their children with them. Moreover, when these children leave the convent and are thrown in the midst of a savage tribe, exposed to all the contagion of intercourse with heathens, blood and nature soon resume their influence, and nothing remains of the good education bestowed upon them except greater breadth of mind and information, which become pernicious by their too frequent abuse.<sup>1</sup>

1659.

They should have confined their labors to the daughters of Indian Christians domiciled in the colony. But these least required this kind of aid, and experience showed that it was better to leave them in their simplicity and ignorance—that the Indians could be good Christians, without adopting any of our politeness and mode of life; or at least leave it to time to draw them from their rudeness, which does not prevent their living in great innocence, having great modesty, and serving God with a piety and fervor which render them most fit for the sublimest operations of grace.

Meanwhile the bishop of Petraea had scarcely assumed the government of his church, before he learned that many nations had been discovered on the north and west of Lake Huron. He at once thought of means to diffuse over them the light of the gospel. He consulted Father Lallemand, who had just been for the second time appointed Superior-General of the missions, and with him he adopted suitable measures to carry out the project.<sup>2</sup> A re-enforcement of missionaries was at once sent to the Abénaqui nations, which insensibly all became Christians; but their wandering life prevented the progress of the gospel from being

Discovery  
of many  
northern  
nations.

<sup>1</sup> For the Ursuline labors, and especially their Indian seminary at this time, consult *Les Ursulines de Quebec*, i., p. 209.

<sup>2</sup> *Relation de la N. F.*, 1653, p. 20, 1659, p. 5; *La Tour, Vie de Mgr. de Laval*, p. 64; *Esquisse de la Vie*, p. 59.