

1659. as rapid among them as had been expected from their docility.<sup>1</sup>

Conversion  
of some  
Eskimaux.

The tribes nearest to the Gulf of St. Lawrence were always at war with the Eskimaux, and often brought in captives as slaves, some of whom the missionaries were so happy as to convert. Bondage and distance from their own land somewhat modified the manners of these Indians, as fierce as the wolves and bears with which their fearful deserts teem: without law, without principles, without society, differing from those brutes only, one might say, by their human figure, they became mild and reasonable as soon as they beheld themselves among men who made use of their reason. In the small number of those who were then gained to Christ, there was one woman whose conversion was attended with circumstances which made a great impression on her countrymen, and still more on a Protestant. While they were instructing this woman in the rudiments of the faith, she seemed to be possessed by the devil. To ascertain the nature of her malady, many remedies were tried, but all proved useless. They then had recourse to holy water, which cured her perfectly; she then solicited baptism, and the ceremony was followed by the abjuration of a Calvinist, who could not resist so evident a miracle.<sup>2</sup>

Various  
discoveries.

The next year an Algonquin,<sup>3</sup> who had spent two whole years in travelling in the north, found in the neighborhood of Hudson's Bay a number of his countrymen, whom fear of the Iroquois had forced to seek an asylum there. He also found there natives of the country well disposed to join the French in repressing the pride of that nation, which had made all others its foes, and began to approach

<sup>1</sup> The Relation for 1659 enters into details on the Micmac mission at Cape Breton, then directed by Father Andrew Richard, Martin Lionne, and James Fremin (p. 7), but is silent as to any mission among the Abénaquis proper.

<sup>2</sup> Relation de la N. F., 1659, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Asatanik, a Nipissing: Relation de la N. F., 1660, p. 9. He started from Green Bay in June, 1658, and proceeded by way of Lake Superior to Hudson's Bay, and then descended to the Saguenay.