1660.

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lunatic and hypochondriac, his disease soon degenerating into mania. In this condition the patient is seized with such a rabid hunger for human flesh, that he springs like a famished wolf on all he meets. In proportion as he finds wherewith to glut this hunger, it grows like thirst in dropsy; and, accordingly, they never fail to kill at once any one seized with this disease.[1]

The source of the Nekouba river was then a place of trade, which gathered almost all the northern nations. Yet it was so wretched a land, that it was said, as a by-word, that the very mosquitoes could not find a living there. At this place the missionaries found a very great number of Indians expecting them, and among them Christians and proselytes. These they instructed, administering the sacraments.[2] To the heathen they announced the kingdom of God, and baptized some. They could not proceed any further, being warned of the approach of the Iroquois, and of their quite recent destruction of a nation known as the Squirrel Tribe.[3]

Another missionary, Father Bailloquet, who had descended the St. Lawrence from Tadoussac to the entrance of the gulf, was still more fortunate. He visited seven or eight towns,[4] constituting as many different tribes, all of the Algonquin language. He everywhere found Indians who, to become good Christians, needed only instruction: he baptized several, and especially a number of dying children, and left a harvest well prepared, which he trusted to gather in the ensuing year. These nations now scarcely subsist, and it is not easy to say what became of them.[5]

As autumn approached, letters from Father le Moyne,

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[1] Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1661, p. 15.

[2] Ib., p. 17.

[3] Ib., p. 21.

[4] Papinachois, Bersiamites, Nation des Monts Pelez, Oumamiouek, etc.: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1661, p. 29; Lalemant, Journal, Oct. 24, 1661.

[5] Ib. The whole number of Indians, of all tribes, on the Labrador peninsula is now estimated at less than 4,000: Hind's Explorations in Labrador, ii., p. 117.