

1662. a mistaken uprightness; and, what was worst of all, made it a point of honor not to retract the indiscreet expression that had escaped him. The people were soon informed of this, and the disorder became extreme. Men began to declaim aloud against the confessors, who, with truly sacerdotal firmness, wished to oppose a barrier to this torrent. Nor did they spare the Bishop of Petræa, who had deemed the evil sufficiently great to employ in its cure the censures of the Church.<sup>1</sup>

Calumnies concocted on this occasion against the Bishop and missionaries.

As these clamors did not induce them to relax their severity, complaints and invectives redoubled. Some irreligious young men just arrived from France, who were greatly hampered by the watchful attention of the pastors to their flocks, joined the malcontents. On all sides the cry was raised that consciences were fettered; and men have been surprised, and with reason, to see this calumny since renewed in a book printed under the name of a religious.<sup>2</sup> In fine, some individuals thought themselves authorized to draw up memoirs and send them to the king's council; but their addresses were all the more ill received from the fact that not only were the motives which induced them to speak easily penetrated, but the calumnious statements with which they sought to support their complaints were refuted by persons in office, whose testimony could not be suspected.<sup>3</sup>

Scandals among the Indians.

Moreover, the bishop of Petræa, and all the ecclesiastics in Canada, had a reputation too well established to be affected by such accusations. But if the calumniators were discountenanced at court, the evil continued its rapid progress; and the disorder went so far that men soon gave no heed to bishop, or preacher, or con-

<sup>1</sup> The documents as to these affairs are very few. Of d'Avangour, only two dispatches are given—N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 13; Can. Doc., II., i., p. 421—and neither bears on

Lettre May 6, 1662; La Tour, Mem. de Mr. de Laval, p. 68-87.

<sup>2</sup> This alludes to Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 84.

<sup>3</sup> M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Lettre 10th Aug., 1662, p. 572.