

fessor. Threats of Divine wrath and the thunders of the Church were alike unavailing to stem a torrent which had burst its bounds. The liquor trade being openly tolerated by the very man who alone could effectually check it, the Indians, who are not able to refrain from it when offered, and in whom the least effect of this drink is the suspension of their reason, plunged into scandals which cost many tears to those who had at such cost begotten them to Christ.

1662.

In vain did the sachems and village chiefs use every exertion to stay the furious torrent; in vain did they implore the governor-general to interpose all his authority to assist them in enforcing his own ordinances: they could produce no impression on a man who believed, in his prejudice, that they were exaggerating the evil.¹ Thus the disorder kept constantly increasing, and gained the most fervent neophytes; so that, with the exception of a few who voluntarily condemned themselves not to leave Sillery, so as to shield themselves from the contagion, and some others who, with the same view, retired from Three Rivers and took refuge at Cap de la Magdeleine, all these new Christians, hitherto so exemplary, and the admiration of the very pagans, became the opprobrium of Christianity, which they exposed to the blasphemies and ridicule of the enemies of God.²

Then the holy Bishop of Petrea, seeing his zeal unavailing and his authority despised, resolved to bear his complaints to the foot of the throne, and passed over to France.³ He was listened to, and obtained from the king all the orders that he deemed necessary to arrest the scandalous trade which committed such ravages in his flock; but Heaven had already anticipated them, and by one of those events which spread terror through the most disso-

The Bishop of Petrea complains to the king.

¹ M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Lettres, p. 571.

Marie de l'Incarnation, Lettres, p. 571; Lalemant, Journal, Aug. 12,

² Relation de la N. F., 1663, p. 8.

1662; Boucher, Histoire Veritable,

³ La Tour, Mem. de Mr. de Laval; p. 116.