

1700. met an opportunity to practice that charity, which is often more efficacious in converting nations than the most pathetic exhortations. He spared himself in naught; but his charity was repaid by most with ingratitude: attempts were even made on his life, and he beheld arrows fall at his feet, shot from too great a distance to harm him.

Not disheartened, he continued to visit the sick, he distributed among them all the remedies at his command, and at last some predestined souls were touched by his perseverance, courage and disinterestedness. He baptized a small number of these Indians, and had the satisfaction of seeing them expire in the sentiments with which he had inspired them. All the others became more and more hardened, and when, after repeated sacrifices to their manitous, they saw no decline in the mortality, they imagined that the Manitou of the Christians was killing them; for these tribes do not hesitate to admit that their tutelary spirits have far less power than ours.

Under this conviction one of their chiefs went around the French post imploring mercy from the Manitou of the Christians, and from the missionary, whom he also regarded as a manitou. Father Mermet at once went to the actor of this comic scene, and assured him that he would redouble his care of the sick. But these hardened men continuing by their superstitious ceremonies and by their indocility to provoke the wrath of heaven against them, the epidemic ran its course and carried off more than half the village. The rest dispersed, and Juchereau saw that founding a post on a casual and transient trade, without introducing agriculture, was building it on sand: but want of men and means soon forced him to abandon his enterprise.¹

While the court of France was taking the steps men-

¹ Marest, Letter of Nov. 9, 1712, in *Lettres Edifiantes*, vol. xi. and earlier letters in *Relation des Affaires du Canada*, p. 31. Juchereau went to the Ohio after Le Sueur abandoned his fort on Blue Earth River. That was begun Oct. 1 1700, and abandoned in 1702; compare la Harpe, and Penicaut. *Canada Doc.*, II. ii., p. 378, Nov. 3, 1702.