

1717. school; and, as he knew these tribes to be extremely susceptible to any kindness shown their children, he ordered this teacher to support his little pupils at the government expense, and with this view, assigned him an allowance which was to increase in proportion to the number he might induce to frequent his school.<sup>1</sup>

What occurred between this minister and F. Rasle.

The minister neglected nothing to carry out the Governor's views: he went to the village for the children, caressed them, made them presents; in a word, for two months he used great exertions, yet without succeeding in gaining a single one. Undiscouraged at this, he applied to the parents of these children, and addressed them several questions touching their belief, and on their replies, he turned into ridicule the Sacraments, Purgatory, the Invocation of the Saints, and all the practices of piety in use among Catholics.<sup>2</sup>

Father Sebastian Rasle, who had for many years back directed this rising church, believed it his duty to oppose these first seeds of seduction. He wrote a very polite letter to the minister, and among other things, told him that his neophytes knew how to believe the truths which the Catholic Church teaches; but that they did not know how to dispute about them; that by proposing to them difficulties which he may well have supposed they were not in a position to answer, it was apparently his design that they should impart them to their missionary: that he seized with pleasure this opportunity to confer with an able man; leaving it to his option to do so orally or in writing, and that meanwhile, he sent him a memoir, which he begged him to read attentively.

<sup>1</sup> The missionary sent was Rev. Joseph Baxter. See "Journal of several visits to the Indians on the Kennebec River, by the Rev. Joseph Baxter of Medfield, Mass., 1717, with notes by the Rev. E. Nason." He was selected by Gov. Shute before the Arrowsick treaty of 1717, and was introduced to the Abnaki deputies by the Governor, at the time of its execution. *Ib.* p. 5. *Maine Hist.* Coll. iii., p. 364. Charlevoix follows *Rasle's Letter*, Oct. 15, 1722. *Lettres Edifiantes*, Kip, *Jesuit Missions*, pp. 7-9.

<sup>2</sup> Baxter's *Journal* shows that he labored chiefly among the whites: he conversed with Indians from time to time on religion, and Jan'y 1, 1718, preached to the Indians at Saggadehock; but he is silent in regard to the children.