

In this memoir, which was quite long, the missionary ^{1713-22.} proved by Scripture, tradition and theological reasons, those dogmas which the minister had assailed with stale pleasantries. He added, at the close of his letter, that if he was not satisfied with his proof, he expected a clear refutation from him, grounded on certain principles, and not on vague arguments, still less on malignant reflections and indecent satires, which became neither their profession, nor the importance of the matters in discussion between them.

Two days after the receipt of this letter, the minister started back for Boston,¹ whence he addressed Father Rasle a brief reply; but so obscure, and in such unintelligible Latin, that the missionary, after reading it repeatedly, could make nothing of it, except, that the minister complained that he was unreasonably attacked; that only zeal for the salvation of souls had induced him to teach the way of heaven to the Indians; and that the proofs which he adduced against him, were ridiculous and puerile.

The former leaves the field.

Father Rasle replied on the spot by a letter which he dispatched to Boston, and to which he received no answer, till after a lapse of two years: the minister, without entering into the matter, informed him that he had a susceptible and critical spirit, and that this was the sign of a temperament inclined to anger. Thus ended the dispute; the missionary delighted to have driven off the preacher so easily, and baffled the project this man had formed for seducing his flock. This first attempt proving so fruitless, the Boston government had recourse to another artifice, but with no better success.²

An Englishman asked of the Abénaquis permission to build a kind of storehouse on the banks of their river, in order to trade with them, promising to sell his goods much

¹ He embarked for Boston at Arrowsick, Sept. 8, 1721, O. S. Journal, p. 17.

² Rale's letter, Oct. 22, 1722. Rale criticised Baxter's Latin. Francis, Life of Rale, p. 258. See Hutchin

son, ii., p. 239. Baxter's final reply is in the Mass. Hist. Soc'y. The missionary signed "Rale." Letter, Nov. 1712, see Francis, p. 164. Shea's Catholic Missions, facsimile from Parish Register in Canada.