

[39] Letter from Father Ennemond Masse to Reverend Father Claude Aquaviva, General of the Society of Jesus.

(Translated from the Latin original.)

PORT ROYAL, June 10, 1611.

MY VERY REVEREND FATHER,
The peace of Christ be with you.

If Your Reverence read with pleasure my letter of October 13th, I felt a great deal more in receiving yours of December 7th, especially as I am the first of the Society to receive from Your Reverence the first letter which you have ever sent to Canada. I take this event as a happy omen, and accept it as coming from heaven, to incite me *to run with ardor in the race*, in order to merit and receive *the reward of this heavenly vocation*, and to sacrifice myself more promptly and more completely for the salvation of these people.

I admit to you *that I said then freely to God: Here I am; if you choose what is weak and despicable in this world to overthrow [40] and destroy that which is strong, you will find all this in Ennemond. Here I am; send me, and make my tongue and my words intelligible, so that I may not be a barbarian to those who will hear me.*

Your prayers, I am sure, will not be in vain, as our arrival here upon the most holy day of Pentecost seems to presage. *We are weak in Jesus Christ, but, I hope, we shall live with him by the power of God.* It is