

which we began, from that time on, to visit every day until the epidemic was at its height,—when we deemed it proper to desist therefrom, for reasons which I shall mention hereafter in their place. We derived considerable advantage from this little exercise, by improving ourselves in the language. Besides teaching the children, we took occasion to explain some of our mysteries to the fathers and mothers, for which we usually made some preparation; these talks, however, were not very long; one must learn to put one foot before the other, before he can walk. We were greatly consoled to see that we were understood, and that a Savage occasionally took up the conversation and repeated what we had said. Just after the embarkation, we did little more than to take possession of our benefice, the quiet, and the calmness of the weather, inviting us to make our retreat,—the more so as at this season visits among the villages would be almost useless, the women being occupied all day in their fields, and the [5] men in trading.

On the 6th of August, an event occurred which requires a few lines here, the circumstances thereof being very remarkable. A young Huron was wickedly assassinated by his own brother. This is not the first time that rage and vengeance have caused the claims of natural love to be overlooked, but I do not know whether such a thing ever occurred before under a pretext so black and detestable. This wretch, who was no less thievish than cruel, having one day chosen his time, robbed his father-in-law, and carried his booty to his mother's house in another village. Nevertheless, he could not conceal his game so well