

which come in their season; so this news, received before the time, brought us a very special consolation. We were greatly rejoiced to hear news of the fleet,—that it was composed of eight fine ships under the command of Monsieur du Plessis Bochart. Our Fathers who have come [10] to see us this year, and above all Father Pierre Chastellain and Father Charles Garnier, who had the honor to come over in his ship, have enjoyed a favor which cannot be highly enough appreciated, in celebrating the Holy Mass almost the whole length of the passage, to the great satisfaction of the ship's company. We learned also through the same medium the number and names of the Fathers whom God was sending us, that is to say, the continuation of the blessings of Heaven upon the Missions of new France. But our joy was dimmed by the assurances your Reverence gave us of the death of the late Monsieur de Champellain,—I say assurances, for rumors of it had been current for a long time, and had even reached us; but there were so many different versions, even as regarded the person, that we had some reason to persuade ourselves that what we feared had not happened. We did not cease, however, thenceforth to fulfill a part of our duties, and recommended the salvation of his soul very particularly to God in our prayers, and especially at the Altar. We redoubled our vows at this time, for we could not do too much for a person of his merit, who had done and [11] suffered so much for new France, for the welfare of which he seemed to have sacrificed all his means, yea, even his own life. Therefore God rewarded him after this life by a death accompanied by so many sentiments of devotion and piety, that his memory will be forever honorable. Our Society