

I thought that I had finished speaking of these two Families; but—since the ships still leave me time to write—the sorrow and joy which at present divide my heart, must form the conclusion of this Chapter. Some Savages of the Island, on their return from the country of the Abnaquiois,¹¹ brought here a very contagious epidemic of smallpox. This disease, which kills off these poor people everywhere, has come down as far as Sillery, that is, to the Residence of Saint Joseph, where we are collecting the Savages. After having taken some of them from us, after having snatched from us a true Apostle for these countries, it attacked the Heads of these first two Sedentary Families, with such fury that we do not yet know the result. François Xavier, formerly Nenas-koumat, was the first seized; he was at once carried to the Hospital, that he might be promptly aided there. Hardly had he entered it, when Noël Negabamat felt himself attacked by the same disease. As I was preparing to take him to Kebec in a canoe, to lodge him with the other sick, [83] I received a letter saying that François Xavier was asking for me, and that I must hasten, if I wished to see him for the last time. At the same moment, four Families of Savages arrived at Sillery, with the intention of becoming Sedentary and of increasing the population of our incipient Village. The designs of God are mysterious; he takes away, he gives; he destroys, he constructs;—in a word, he is the Master; he does what he wills; may he be forever blessed. If he had not afflicted the good Job, never would that great light have illumined the world. If he had not shaken the first Columns of this new Church, and of this settlement or reduction of the Savages, we would