

Letter from Father Jerome Lalemant, Superior
of the Huron Mission, to the Very Rev-
erend Father Mutio Vitelleschi,
General of the Society of
Jesus, at Rome.

WE have had 5 Missions in these regions of the Hurons,—preaching the Gospel to more than 10,000 barbarians, and that to their several families. We had the tongue, and they themselves the ears,—God on certain occasions supplying the want of a minister,—and yet, while they were sound in body, they did not hear; it therefore pleased God to pull their ears through a certain kind of pestilence, which spread over the whole country, and adjudged many to the grave. Nevertheless, they have become nowise better,—nay, they are even more incensed at us than usual, and have turned upon us as if we were the authors of all their troubles. I know not with what calumnies they have not loaded us; they have come to threats, to hostility, to private and public councils respecting our slaughter, and finally to blows,—but light ones, and not yet stained with much blood. We suspect and look for something further, on the first occasion, unless God determine otherwise. . . . Certainly, we cannot sufficiently wonder that we are even now alive; for—besides the fact that we are here without any soldier or local defense,—since we have not even a grain of