

this better, the Fathers usually wore each a Crucifix suspended from his neck. The council accepted the statement of this purpose, with formalities and compliments which greatly exceed what one usually imagines of the Savages.

From the next day, one of our Fathers began, for lack of a bell, to go throughout the village, making an announcement, according to the custom of the country for general assemblies,—in consequence of which, they soon saw the cabin entirely filled. There was too much novelty and preparation to expect anything less; but the confusion obliged them, on the following days, to exclude the children and to appoint the time after the assembly for them to come to the little school.

This so general concourse, however, did not continue [86] long. Soon was seen the separation of the good seed from the bad,—and of those who were the sheep waiting for the voice of the Shepherd, from those who were not. The former continued to come, and listened willingly; the latter, after having satisfied their curiosity, were no longer to be seen there,—or, if they did come, it was only to make mischief and perpetrate insolent acts. It was this that obliged us to change our tactics, and to devote ourselves entirely to visiting the cabins,—where, after we had more carefully surveyed the soil where the seed might have taken root, we could form special gatherings of those whom we recognized as having some pious inclinations towards the Christianity that had been proclaimed to them.

Experience has shown us everywhere that this is the method that must be adopted, at least with these Barbarians among whom we live. When one first