

most of these were thus received at the point of death, the majority being children. The decision is made by the Fathers, to go from their residences on missions to the various tribes,—a more difficult method, but, as they think, more efficacious in reaching the savages. They have taken a census, not only of the villages, but of the families in each, and even of nearly all the persons in the country; this shows a population, in thirty-two villages, of about 12,000 souls.

After giving a general outline of the hardships and dangers experienced in carrying on these missions, the writer relates in more detail the progress and condition of each. The residence at Ste. Marie has now become their only fixed and permanent station,—those of St. Joseph and Ossossané having been removed thither. One object in building the house at Ste. Marie was to furnish a suitable place for the rest and spiritual refreshment of the missionaries; but the first to make retreat therein was “the Christian,” Joseph Chihwatenhwa. His pious sentiments on this occasion are related at length. A speech of his, defending the missionaries, causes the conversion of another Indian, “who is likely to be one of the pillars of this rising Church.” This new convert, named in baptism Louis, tries to persuade his relatives to embrace the new faith, but, despite his eloquence, with little success; “the words which issued all on fire from the lips of this Christian were received in hearts colder than marble.” Various baptisms, occurring in the villages near Ste. Marie, are recounted. It is but a little time since a general council of all the clans was held, at which the missionaries were denounced—most of those present