

only of the villages, large and small, but also of the cabins, the fires, and even very nearly of the persons in all the country,—there being no other way to preach the Gospel in these regions than at each family's hearth, [38] whereof we tried to omit not one. In these five missions there are thirty-two hamlets and straggling villages, which comprise in all about seven hundred cabins, about two thousand fires, and about twelve thousand persons.⁷

These villages and cabins were much more populous formerly, but the extraordinary diseases and the wars within some years past, seem to have carried off the best portion: there remaining only very few old men, very few persons of skill and management. It is to be feared that the climax of their sins is approaching, which moves divine Justice to exterminate them as well as several other nations, whose remnants have come to take refuge among them,—which ought more than ever to rouse the charity and the zeal of every one to succor these poor wretches, for fear lest they fall into their uttermost misfortune.

Such is the field in which our Gospel laborers have toiled since Autumn,—when it was warmest. It is there that we first turned our minds, where we have been making the attack; and never, for any [39] warning, threats, or evil treatment which the devil may have contrived to stir up, have we forsaken any design or lost any opportunity of serving the master who employs us.

I say nothing here of the injuries from the weather, which our workmen have been compelled to suffer during their journeys from village to village in their territory,—always traveling on foot during the Winter, laden with their little goods and chapels, through