

pass for a fresh-water sea; the other, which is toward the South, the contour of which is hardly less than two leagues.⁸

We began to establish ourselves there as early as last Summer, and about the middle of the Autumn we moved thither the residence which we had at Ossossane, having delayed to combine with it in like manner that of saint Joseph: but, at the beginning [44] of Spring, the insolence of the Savages obliged us to do so much sooner than on other accounts we had decided to. And thus we have now in all the country but a single house which is to be firm and stable,—the vicinity of the waters being very advantageous to us for supplying the want, in these regions, of every other vehicle; and the lands being fairly good for the native corn, which we intend, as time goes on, to harvest for ourselves.

There was ground for apprehending the proposal and opening of this matter to the communities of the Savages who were the masters of it; but it pleased God in that to assist us, for the proposition was at once accepted and immediately carried out, and the presents necessary thereto delivered at the proper time. If we had delayed two hours, I know not whether the affair could ever have succeeded.

We are now laboring to establish ourselves there, and to erect some abode reasonably suitable to our functions; but that is done with pains that it would be difficult to explain,—having [45] no help or assistance from the country, and being withal in an almost universal dearth of workmen and tools.

We have given to this new house the name of sainte Marie, or Nostre Dame de la Conception. The general and special obligations that we are under to