

public councils cried loudest for massacre, and who have stuffed with calumnies against us the nations among whom we have recently gone to announce the Gospel, whom they have solicited to put us to death, in order to be able to get rid of us with less consequence to themselves.

[101] Here follows what Father Ragueneau writes to me of the state of this mission, in one of his letters.

“ The cabins of our Christians in this village of la Conception are the most afflicted with the malady: besides that alone of Joseph Chihouatenhoua, where five children have had the disease, there is not one which does not find itself more severely treated than are the families of the infidels. René counts as many as eleven dead in his cabin; the good Anne sees herself robbed of all her children, the sole support of her old age,—whereas minds rebellious against God, and those which have always leagued themselves against the faith, boast to see their whole family in health, and that, in spite of heaven, they are happy in this world. In consequence of that, the reports are more than ever confirmed, that the Faith is useless to those who embrace it; that, if God do not preserve them, it is a want of affection, or want of power; that from the evil treatment which they experience in this life one cannot reasonably draw any other conclusion than that the hopes of Paradise, with which we try [102] to console them, are nothing but fables; that, furthermore, the mortality being chiefly among the children, who are still in innocence, we cannot attribute the death of these little creatures to the sins of the parents,—since God, being just, ought not to punish the innocent