

and seven have been baptized. The Indians show in sickness astonishing patience and gentleness, and often most pious devotion. The Sillery savages are in many ways under the care of the nuns; and various instances of their simplicity and naïveté are recounted. Accustomed to divide with one another their food, they also think it necessary to share the medicines prescribed,—all impartially drinking from the cup allotted to one. A portrait of the Duchess d'Aiguillon is sent to the hospital, and the women and children all imitate the posture of prayer in which the lady is depicted; then, bowing low to her picture, they kiss it "with more simplicity and candor than grace. It is not the custom of the savages to salute one another with a kiss; but as Madame de la Peltrie often embraces and kisses these poor girls on meeting them, these good creatures imagine that they must imitate her, in order to do right." The death of one of the nuns is recorded—Mother de Sainte Marie, "a dear dove," whose health has been frail during all her stay in Canada; she dies (March 5) apparently from consumption, but her physician states that "she had three mortal diseases."

The writer proceeds to relate the history of the mission at Three Rivers, which "has been beaten this year by more kinds of winds than pilots and mariners have marked on their wind roses or on their charts." Three Rivers is a rendezvous for all the tribes of the upper St. Lawrence and Ottawa region, who are not only often ignorant of the missionaries and their designs, but are usually involved in jealousies and quarrels with one another. They also practice the pagan superstitions and customs that the Fathers have labored to suppress among their neophytes, and