

This so special alliance which these Arendaronon peoples have with the French had often given us the thought [147] of going to impart to them the riches of the Gospel; but our deficiency in the language had always prevented us from advancing to that point,—having found ourselves occupied from the outset in our first abiding place, which was situated at the other end of the country, quite opposite to these.

This year, having found ourselves strong enough for this enterprise, we began a mission there, which has had three villages in its department,—St. Jean Baptiste,¹ St. Joachim, and Sainte Elizabeth.² Fathers Antoine Daniel and Simon le Moine have had the care of them.

They made their chief and most usual abode in the more populous village of St. Jean Baptiste, having most work to do there. At the first, they set forth in open council the purpose of their coming, which was approved and universally received by every one: people spoke of nothing but believing, and embracing the Faith; the cabins were open to them, and even emulously so: these good people came to invite them, and offered them with a friendly heart all the kindnesses they could imagine.

[148] The disease, which had already begun in this village, increased after the arrival of our Fathers: the affection and the confidence of these poor barbarians seemed at the same time to increase toward them; one or two raisins, the palm of the hand full of half-sweetened water, the assistance which they tried to give the sick, either by counsel or by going to ask alms in the cabins of the more wealthy for those who were in poverty,—these were the charms