

checked the aid that he gave us; but I learn that some persons of merit are not willing that this great work should cease, and they are strengthening our hands which were being weakened by the decease of those who are worthy to bear the name of true Fathers of the Christian Savages.

Monsieur the Marquis de Gamache,⁸ deceased, was the first who deserved to bear this title, for he opened the first door to the great Missions that we have undertaken in these last limits of the World. His son, having consecrated himself to our Society, ended his days last year, with the crown of a rich perseverance in virtue; both of them now see how devoutly and how usefully these great gifts have been employed, and how a noble action performed in time bears fruit for Eternity.

An act of piety has been brought to my notice, of which, I do not at all doubt, the Holy Ghost was the inspirer; Charity is skillful. [206] A man of merit and of position wishes to provide for a family of Savages; he has set apart a hundred écus to build them a small house, he wishes to be told the number of persons who compose this family, and how they are named; he asks what will be needed to establish them for the first year, and what rule must be observed for their support. This thought did not come from Archimedes, but from a higher spirit. This is precisely the way in which to give to Jesus Christ all the descendants of this family, *et nati natorum, et qui nascentur ab illis*. All the children of their children, their nephews, and their latest posterity will believe in God. He who converts a sinner in France, ordinarily converts but one man; he who attracts to the faith the head of a Savage family, attracts to it