

Claude Pijart, who have been sent from Quebec for this especial work. As the savages are now in good health, and have been blessed with an abundant harvest, they have, in general, become tolerant of the missionaries, who no longer encounter serious hindrances to their efforts,—although they are sorely tried by the worldliness, fickleness, and superstitious follies of their hearers.

The evangelists now possess “a little Church composed of about thirty Frenchmen, and about fifty Savages making profession.” These last have remained constant, since the panic and storms of the previous year; and it is they who form the leaven that shall yet be effectual among these tribes. Lalemant sees the urgent necessity of rendering Indian marriages stable; “and—inasmuch as one of the principal causes of their dissolution comes from this, that one of the parties is not able to supply the needs and necessities of the other, which causes that other to go and seek them elsewhere—one of the most effective means of binding them indissolubly will be to assist them in such a case.” He is greatly encouraged by the aid promised him from France for this very purpose. “Certain persons of merit have resolved to make perpetual foundations of the ten or twelve écus necessary for the establishment of these marriages,” setting aside a sum of money to produce the above income. Some of these persons are childless, and “believe that they might here gain children for God and for themselves, by this manner of holy adoption;” and, to keep their memories green, “they desire that their names should be given to the families proceeding from these marriages procured by the efforts of their charity.”