

especially their Aaskwandiks or familiar demons, real or imaginary,—they lose courage, not being able to resolve on abandoning that which for so many ages they have persuaded themselves to be essential to their preservation and that of their families, and the source of all their good fortune.

We find generally in this dust some pearl, I mean some predestined soul, which profits by our visits. But the number of these is indeed like that of the elect,—small in comparison with the others. The number of those who have been baptized this year is about a hundred, of whom several have died happily,—without speaking of many little children deceased, who had been baptized in preceding years.

[9] After all, we find here, in the midst of this great Barbarism, a little Church composed of about thirty Frenchmen, and about fifty Savages making profession, assisted and continually favored by a very special Providence of God: we can believe no other thing, but that it is a bit of leaven which, little by little, is growing, and which in its own time will produce its effect.

Now—in whatever time it may be that it please God to give full and entire blessing to this work—the way by which we must begin will be to fix and confirm the marriages, which have here no stability, and are broken more easily than the promises which children make to one another in France. 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.