

I cannot sufficiently admire divine Providence, nor sufficiently adore his goodness and [10] mercy,—since, having slightly alluded to this subject in preceding Relations, it has pleased him to quicken many holy souls, whose charity has surpassed all our hopes; so that we have assurance, at least for some time, that means will not be lacking to assist many of these poor barbarians, that their marriages may be rendered stable. It is for this purpose, with the help of this aid, that we have begun to work.

Certain persons of merit, not being contented with a temporary alms, have resolved to make perpetual foundations of the ten or twelve écus with which I said that each of these marriages could be established; so that they may be continually thus employed, by order of the Fathers of our Society, while the Faith shall be firmly rooted in these husbands and wives and in their families; and in case it happen to be lacking in them, that we may propagate it in other families which shall be Christianized; the principal for such income shall be set aside for this. This is in [11] truth to establish and maintain Christianity in these regions, by a devotion as judicious as charitable.

Among those who are inclined to this charity have been found some, as I learn, who are freed from marriage and without children, or even who have always lived free from such bond, and who have believed that they might here gain children for God and for themselves, by this manner of holy adoption, and thus perpetuate their names in this land of a rising Church, when these are lost in their own. And to cause that by this means remembrance of them may be always more present in the prayers of these people, they have desired that their names should be