

on this occasion in which it was a question of an entirely new introduction into a Nation different in language, at least in many respects, [48] and in which (if it should please God to grant his blessing) it would be necessary to establish a fixed and permanent dwelling, which should be the retreat of the neighboring Missionariès, as this one, in which we are at present, is for the Missionaries of the quarters on this side.

He who was given to him as companion was Father Joseph Marie Chaumonot, who came from France the year before, and had been acknowledged very gifted in languages.

This nation is very populous; about forty villages or hamlets are counted therein. Setting out from our Huron people to reach the first and nearest villages, we travel four or five days,—that is to say, about forty leagues,—going always directly South. So we can say that if, according to the latest and most exact observation which we have been able to make, our new house at Sainte Marie (which is in the midst of the Huron country) is in forty-four degrees and about twenty-five minutes of latitude, the entrance to the Neutral Nation from the side of our [49] Huron people will have a latitude of 42 degrees and a half, or thereabouts. For to think of making, for the present, a more exact research and observation in the country itself, is what cannot be done. The sight of the instrument alone would drive to extremities those who have not been able to endure that of inkstands, as we shall see hereafter.

From the first village of the Neutral Nation which one finds on arriving there from this place, and continuing to travel South or Southeast, it is about