

what I am able to tell you about it. About thirty-five persons of condition have joined together to labor for the conversion [128] of the poor Savages of New France, and to endeavor to gather a goodly number of them on the Island of Mont-real, which they have chosen as a suitable place for their object. Their intention is to have houses built, in which to lodge them; to till the soil, in order to feed them; to establish Seminaries for their instruction, and a Hostel-Dieu for succoring their sick. All these Gentlemen and Ladies met together one Thursday, toward the end of the month of February of this year, 1642, at ten o'clock in the morning, in the Church of Nostre Dame at Paris, before the Altar of the Blessed Virgin. There a Priest among their number said holy Mass, and gave communion to the associates who had not taken Orders; those who had, said Mass at the Altars around that of the Blessed Virgin. There, all together, they consecrated the Island of Mont-real to the Holy Family of Our Lord, JESUS, MARY, and JOSEPH, under the special protection of the Blessed Virgin. They also consecrated themselves, and joined in a participation of prayers and good works; so that, being animated by one and the same spirit, they may labor more sincerely for the glory of God and for the [129] salvation of those poor peoples, and that the prayers that they may say for their conversion, and for the sanctification of each of the said Associates, may be more agreeable to the divine Majesty. We all hope that your Reverence will take part in this work, and will go in person to help those poor Infidels and to make them know their Creator."

These Gentlemen will permit me to tell them, by