

very well in this country. The time will come when all will have food. *Labor improbus omnia vincit.* Much work has to be done; a new country cannot be built up without trouble. The seasons for cultivating the soil here are shorter than in France, although we are on the same degree of latitude as la Rochelle.

Virtue, gentleness, and joy have made their abode in the houses dedicated to God. Tender and delicate maidens, who dread a snowflake in France, are not frightened when they see mountains of them here. A Frost would, in their well-closed houses, give them a cold; while a severe and very long winter, armed with snow and [8] ice from head to foot, does them no other harm than to keep them in good appetite. Your damp and clinging cold is troublesome; ours is sharper, but it is calm and clear, and, to my mind, more agreeable, although more severe.

We have four dwellings or residences here. Our Reverend Father Superior and father Jacques de la Place have usually made their abode at Kebec; father Enmond Masse and father Anne Denouë at nostre Dame des Anges; Father Jean de Brebeuf, father de Quen, and father Joseph du Peron, at St. Joseph; father Jacques Buteux and father Joseph Poncet at the three rivers.³ All our fathers and brethren have enjoyed pleasant and undisturbed health. Each has worked piously in accordance with his vocation; the great Master will reward them at the close of the day's labor according to the worth and value of their deeds.

In order to understand the good or bad state of the country it is necessary to consider not only the French, who constitute the soundest part of it, but also the Savages who are our friends, and those who