

the short time he was at Tadoussac. The mothers themselves bring their children; and, if any savages come from some more distant place, the most devout women find out whether there are among the band any children not yet baptized, in order to inform the Father of it. Some of them cannot bear to leave a child unbaptized, so great is their fear lest it die without [236] that Sacrament. Others say, through mistaken charity, that there should be no haste,—that these children will perhaps be wicked, and that God will be angry because they have been baptized. They add that, as their parents are not Christians, they will perhaps be guilty of superstitious practices, and commit crimes that will cause the death of their children; then baptism will be blamed for it, and it will be said that Faith kills men, and that prayer is a bad thing. The Father easily pacified them by showing them the great necessity of being cleansed in that heavenly font.

All the adults who have been purified in those health-giving waters have been fully instructed. They have manifested a great desire to live conformably to the laws of Jesus Christ and of his Church. We do not grant that Sacrament of salvation and light to all those who ask for it. Three years ago, a sorcerer pressed us to baptize him. He could say all the prayers, and had a knowledge of the principal articles of our belief. He came recently to saint Joseph to form a friendship with the leading men of that Residence; but as [237] we mistrusted him on account of his rather fickle mind, and feared a relapse on his part, we have always refused him what he asked.

Tadoussac is the first port at which the ships stop