

For I can truly say that never in France have I seen illiterate people more susceptible to the mysteries of our Faith. They penetrate them with so much spirit, and derive from them such well-grounded opinions of Heavenly things, that this alone convinces my mind that God wills to be acknowledged in the midst of this barbarism; that he has his elect here, and that, even if we should have to die a thousand times, the Gospel must be preached here. And truly it is here that we are eyewitnesses that his arm is not shortened and that from rocks and stones he brings forth, as it pleases him, children [33] of Abraham and souls destined for Heaven. In a word, no heart continues to be barbarous when Faith has taken possession of it.

Of the many who have presented themselves for Baptism, we have put off a goodly number, the better to try them, and by that delay to increase the esteem that they should have for our mysteries. Those who have appeared to us to be the choicest, and the best disposed to receive the character of children of God, are over one hundred. These, on the one hand, having before their eyes the example and fervor of the older Christians, have much less difficulty in observing what they see already practiced; and moreover, being better informed regarding the truths of our Faith, have also more strength to withstand the temptations that formerly made the most courageous waver, and caused the ruin of many who had begun fairly well. "What else should I seek but Paradise?" replied a Catechumen who is now an excellent Christian. "If you were to promise me a long life, I would publicly give you the lie, for there is not one who does not know that the best Chris-