

As soon as the canoe appeared, all hastened to the banks of the great river, and vied with one another in expressing their joy at the arrival of the Father. He was welcomed, not in the fashion of the Court, but with sincerity and frankness. Noël Negabamat, whom these good Neophytes have chosen for their Captain, delivered a public harangue, declaring in a loud and strong voice the reasons that had brought the Father there; the need that they had of him; the benefits that they might derive from his presence and conversation; the obligations that they owed him for having consented to become their companion in their great labors, in order to instruct them. In a word, he exhorted all his people with [50] great fervor to show every obedience and respect to the wishes of their Father.

When all who were to travel together were assembled, the camp was broken; all the houses were rolled up—that is to say, the bark of which these buildings are made was folded up; they quitted the banks of the great river, or the fish country, to enter the region of Elk, of deer, of beaver, and of other animals, against which they were proceeding to wage war. I will not speak of their mode of camping, or of their weapons, or of their baggage,—wagons, which are no other than their own backs, or very light wooden sleds when the ground is covered with snow. Neither will I speak of the various kinds of beasts that they find in their great forests, or of their customs, or of their methods of doing things; all these have been described in the preceding Relations. I will merely give a slight sketch of the piety and devotion practiced by these good Neophytes in their great forests.