

greatly touched by such charity, which is unusual among them; and many of them have become excellent Christians.

Methods elaborated by human prudence are too inferior to carry out undertakings that God considers as his own. War, famine, persecutions, all these storms that seemed more likely than ever to overwhelm Christianity, have greatly [143] strengthened it. Contrary to the usual experience of previous years, our Fathers have had as much and more occupation during the summer than during the winter. Our Missions have been changed into Residences, and the Chapels have been everywhere enlarged. Through lack of bells, we have had to hang up old caldrons, at the request and solicitation of our Christians. The cemeteries were blessed; processions were held in the villages and funerals were solemnized according to the custom of the Church; Crosses were erected and solemnly adored, in the sight of the barbarians.

The older Christians lead a life that is irreproachable and full of godliness. The good sentiments, with which God inspires them more than ever, show us that the holy Ghost every day takes new and stronger possession of their hearts. They perform the office of Dogique,¹ in the absence of our Fathers. In their wars and on their hunts, even when they are in large bands, they offer public prayers, and hold divine service, as strictly as if they were in their Church; they instruct and baptize, with much satisfaction and [144] edification, in times of danger; the reputation of their virtue pervades the foreign Tribes with whom they trade; they preach there the holiness of the Christian law; they inspire everywhere