

the desire of enjoying the blessing that they possess, and imperceptibly open the door for us to many great nations who could not hear our name without a shudder, and who had looked upon us in the past only as persons who brought misfortune upon them.

As for the new Christians, their number has been much greater this year than in previous ones. Even the Infidels, who are humiliated and made more docile by affliction, seem to us to be less distant from God's Kingdom. Finally, the body of Christians, after heavy trials sent by Heaven, is becoming more considerable, and begins to be in the majority in some of the villages. Concerning this, one of the most important personages of this country complained one day, to a Christian Captain, of the sway that the Faith was imperceptibly gaining over the customs of their forefathers, and said that it would be [145] advisable to oppose the course of the Gospel as soon as possible. "That would have answered at the beginning," said the brave Neophyte; "but, now that matters are so far advanced, such an undertaking would be completely beyond human strength. It will be easier for us to convert those who still remain infidels, than for you to make us abandon our resolution and give up the Faith."

May God confirm what that courageous heart has said. Before obtaining it, we have still great obstacles to overcome, of which the inveterate instability of marriages would not be the least, but for the charitable assistance of certain persons, to whom we are indebted for a goodly number of Christian families, whom we would never have won over to God without such temporal assistance. And we have every reason to hope that our Churches will continue