

[1] Relation of what occurred in New France,
on the great River St. Lawrence, in
the year one thousand six
hundred and forty-six.

*To the Reverend Father Estienne Charlet, Provincial of the
Society of JESUS in the Province of France.*

MY REVEREND FATHER,
Finding myself obliged to render hereafter
a more detailed account to Your Reverence
of matters which occur in the Missions down here, I
will say to you that—after having compared what
I have seen in these within one year, with what I
observed up yonder in the [2] Huron Missions during
the space of several years—I can only confirm my-
self in the belief that *digitus Dei est hic*,—that it is
the work of a very special providence, and of a good-
ness truly infinite.

I would have much difficulty in explaining the
reasons which cause in me this feeling; there are
hidden secrets in the works of providence, as well as
in the wonders of nature: one understands them less
than one admires them. Perhaps the aspect of the
country,—which appeared to me wholly frightful in
war, when I saw it for the first time,—having
changed and become very beautiful in the quiet of
peace, forms in me this thought and gives me this
feeling; but that work—though excellent, and sur-
passing all our hopes—would not be sufficient to