

[136] Letter from Father Hierosme Lalemant, written from the Huron country to the Reverend Father Provincial of the Society of JESUS.

MY REVEREND FATHER,  
I was deprived last year of an especial consolation, because the letters that Your Reverence had written to me had fallen into the hands of the Hiroquois, our enemies. I learned, however, at the end of the Summer, the orders that you had sent, in accordance with which I have left the care of this Huron Mission to Father Paul Ragueneau and have prepared to depart from these upper countries and go down to Kebec.

In my uncertainty as to what might happen to me on the way, I have deemed it advisable to write this letter previous to my departure, and to leave it here to be sent after me, so that in any case Your Reverence might know my latest thoughts and opinions concerning the conversion of these Countries,—after I have dwelt here nearly seven years, witnessed the labors of the Fathers of our Society, [137] and seen the fruits that Heaven has reaped from them,—and the hopes that I leave here for the future, if God continue to pour his blessings on these Peoples as he has begun.

When I arrived here in the Huron country, the contagious diseases that had previously raged there had given our Fathers an opportunity for showing