

name of the whole country. It has been concluded, to the great satisfaction of the French; it will last as long as our Lord shall please. It is judged necessary here, in order to maintain it, and to ascertain quietly what can be done for the instruction of those tribes, to send thither some Father. I have reason to believe that I shall be employed therein, as I have some knowledge of the language of the country; you see well how I have need of efficient aid from prayers while in the midst of those Barbarians. It will be necessary to dwell among them almost without having liberty to pray,—without Mass, and without Sacraments. I must be responsible for [126] all the accidents between the Hiroquois, French, Algonquins, and Hurons. But what of that? my hope is in God, who has no need of us for the execution of his designs. It is for us to try to be faithful to him, and not to spoil his work by our own baseness. I hope that you will obtain for me this favor from our Lord; and that, after having led so slothful a life hitherto, I shall begin to serve him better. My heart tells me that, if I have the blessing of being employed in this Mission, *Ibo et non redibo*; but I would be happy if our Lord were willing to finish the Sacrifice where he has begun it, and if the little blood which I have shed in that land were as the pledge of that which I would give him from all the veins of my body and my heart. In fine, that people *sponsus mihi sanguinum est; hunc mihi despondi sanguine meo*. Our good master who has acquired it by his blood, opens to it, if he pleases, the door of his Gospel,—as also to four other nations, its allies, who are near to it. Adieu, my dear Father; entreat him that he unite me inseparably to himself."