

were laid by Richard, De Lyonne, and the other self-denying Fathers who had carried the Gospel into this remote and barbarous region. The greatest obstacle to their labors was, at first, the insalubrious climate; but the Europeans are now inured to this danger, and no longer die from the prevalent disease of those regions, the scurvy. The mission is gaining ground, and five families have been received into the Christian fold. Various instances of piety and faith among these converts are related.

LXIV. In this brief letter to the father general (written in the Huron country, June 2, 1648), Brébeuf reports the Huron mission as, on the whole, prosperous; and he sees many openings for extending its work. But the incursions of the Iroquois still continue, and threaten the ruin of the mission and of the Hurons; while the opposition of infidel savages is, at times, a great hindrance to the work.

The chief object of Brébeuf's letter is to urge that the rule for a triennial change of the superior of the mission be set aside in the case of Ragueneau, who is in every way most capable of filling that position, especially in leadership and executive ability. The father general is entreated, for the good of the mission, to prolong Ragueneau's term.

LXV. The *Journal des Jésuites* is a rich quarry for the student of the economic and social history of New France. The record for 1648 contains much of interest, in this connection.

As usual, New-year's gifts are exchanged among the French residents. Chastillon is sent to the Hurons, "to acquaint them with the state of affairs down here." Father De Quen, sent on a mission to Beauport and other outlying settlements, finds there