

plagues, war, and famine have fallen on these peoples, the elect have been distinguished from the reprobate; the latter have died like beasts, while the former have hastened to become children of God and a great many have ascended to Heaven.

Finally, when all these matters were concluded, those good people embarked in their [46] little bark vessels, taking with them, in addition to Father Bressany four other Fathers of our Society, and one of our Brethren,—namely, Father Gabriel Lalemant, Father Jacques Bonin, Father Adrian Greslon, Father Adrian d'Aran, and our Brother Nicolas Noirclair,—together with 25 or 30 Frenchmen. It is a great blessing to see the courage and zeal of those good Fathers. The blood and the deaths of those who have preceded them animate them; so great joy showed itself on their countenances that one would have said that they were all about to take possession of a Crown and an Empire. And what seems to me still more surprising is, that on such occasions young men are to be found who, incited by the example of the good Fathers, wish to run the same risks, and who protest that zeal for the salvation of souls, and not the hope of transitory lucre, makes them undertake so long, so rough, and so dangerous a journey.

We have learned since their departure that, when this small army of Hurons reached the point of the Island of Montreal, it divided. Some wished to pass by the settlement of the French who are on that Island, as they had promised Monsieur the Governor; while the others [47] wished to take the other side as being shorter, easier, and less dangerous. We greatly fear that this division will bring misfortune