

Letter of Father Paul Ragueneau to the Very
Reverend Father Vincent Caraffa, General
of the Society of Jesus, at Rome.

OUR VERY REVEREND FATHER IN CHRIST,
Pax Christi.

I have received, very Reverend Paternity, your letter dated January 20, 1647. If you wrote to us last year, 1648, we have not yet received that letter. Your Paternity evinces pleasure in the news of the state of our Huron mission. Indeed (such is your Paternal love toward us), you even stoop to details, and bid us inform you of everything.

There are here eighteen Fathers, four coadjutors, twenty-three *Donnés*, seven servants (to whom alone wages are paid), four boys, and eight soldiers. Truly, we are so threatened by the hostile rage of our savage enemies that, unless we wish our enterprise and ourselves to perish in an hour,—and, indeed, that the faith, now widely spread in these lands, should be utterly destroyed,—it was quite necessary for us to seek the protection of these men, who devote themselves to both domestic duties and farm work, and also to building fortifications, and to military service. For since, until late years, our abode, which we call the Residence of *Ste. Marie*, was surrounded on every side by the numerous villages of our friends, the Hurons, we feared more for them than for ourselves from hostile attack: so during that time, however small our number, we