

[1] Relation of what occurred in the Mission of the Fathers of the Society of JESUS among the Hurons, a country of New France, in the years 1648 and 1649.

To the Reverend Father Hierosme Lalemant, Superior of the Missions of the Society of JESUS in New France.

Pax Christi.

MY REVEREND FATHER,
This Relation which I address to your Reverence will show you the progress of the Faith with regard to these peoples,—more notable than ever it had been in the past; and, next, the desolation of these Countries during the time [2] in which Christianity has appeared in them with greatest luster. What consoles us in these desolations is, that Heaven becomes enriched by our losses, and is filled with the spoils of this Church militant,—which sustains itself in the storm, and which, at the climax of the miseries which assail it on all sides, maintains itself steadfastly in its faith, and animates itself in the hope of an immortal life, which is its sole support. We see the work of our hands scattered,—or, rather, the work of the hand of God alone: a number of rising Churches which bear upon themselves the true mark of Christianity,—I mean to say, the cross of Jesus Christ. We see a great number of our Christians, who have died by the edge of the sword; others, who have suffered both the fires and the flames,—men, women, and children; and those who have escaped the scourge of war, constrained to abandon their goods, their houses, their country, and to go into the woods,—to