

Father who has special charge of that Mission. This poor Father could not go, there being, at that time, only two of our Fathers at Three rivers, to minister to the French and the Savages. I do not know which of the two was the more sad,—the good Israelite, who was named Antoine, and aged about 55 years; or the Father, whose tears came to his eyes on listening to the loving expostulations made by this faithful Messenger. “What will they say who impatiently long for thee, and so greatly desire confession? What will my children do, who have not yet received Baptism? or my wife, who could not come down here, and will not look upon me with a kindly eye if I return without thee on board? Must we, then, be separated after our deaths? Must some be blest, and others wretched? If I could have brought all my family upon my shoulders, I would have done it; but the roads are frightful. If others, who cannot surmount these difficulties, come to [140] death unbaptized, with whom will lie the blame?” In the end, the Father decided that one of the most intelligent among them should bestow holy Baptism on those who should be in manifest danger of death; and that others should be induced to offer frequent acts of pure love and perfect contrition, to supply the lack of the Sacrament of Penance. In truth, these good people led so innocent a life, that the Father consoled himself for his inability to go to their aid.

He has learned, since then, that the wife of a Captain had died without Confession. “Never,” said he, “has a woman been seen more zealous for the Faith. She converted her husband, her son-in-law, and her whole family, and many other persons. She entreated from God, every day, the favor that she