

who have been baptized. Those poor people — who seem to have issued from the depths of their forests and come as far as our great river, only by an instinctive prompting of the Holy Ghost, whose will it is that they shall there find their [15] salvation — have such wonderful affection for the mysteries of our holy Religion that they were heard to make the air ring with expressions of very unusual delight, by singing devout Canticles in their own tongue, as soon as they saw the Cross being planted in those regions for the purpose of taking possession of them in the name of Jesus Christ; and they prolonged their singing and acclamations beyond the time occupied by the ceremony they were honoring.

We hope that the Mission at Sillery will have as protector in Heaven Noel Tecouërimat, who was in his lifetime its principal support on earth. He was a Captain who, by his intelligence, his leadership, and his native eloquence, had acquired [16] unbounded authority over the people of his nation, and the foremost place in their councils. This influence he always used, during the forty years in which he was attached to the French, in enlisting all his countrymen in their interests; and, still further, in urging them all to acknowledge the true Religion which he had embraced. None of the severest trials wherewith it pleased God to purify his faith ever shook his constancy; and, far from being tempted to infidelity, as is the case with many others, by the various misfortunes that befell him after his conversion, he ever thanked him who sent them, as if they had been so many proofs of his especial goodness. He was not content with prevailing on all his kinsfolk to follow the Cross of Jesus Christ [17] as he did, but