

To the Reverend Father Jacques Bordier, Provincial of the Society of JESUS in the Province of France.

MY REVEREND FATHER,  
*Pax Christi.*

*I send your Reverence the Relation of what has occurred in this country during the past year. The year before there was nothing but war; this year has passed in perfect peace, the Iroquois having come to sue for it, and having their petition granted, even to the extent that we felt obliged to send them some Missionaries—the door being there opened to us for the Gospel. I do not mean that we have not much to fear from the perfidy of those barbarous nations, who, having no faith in God, will ever be faithless toward men; but, if the Apostles had held aloof from Infidels except when they were sure of personal safety, they would have been untrue to that worthy name of Apostle. In a word, the peace with the Iroquois is on a sufficiently firm foundation to enable us to send them, without imprudence, some Preachers of the Gospel; but the danger to which they expose themselves is so great that they may expect there a blessed martyrdom, after severe labors and grievous hardships. Others of our Fathers have proceeded in other directions—to the East, West, and North—to bear the faith; one alone of these has journeyed more than fifteen hundred leagues, and baptized three hundred and forty persons—mostly children who were sick, and at death's door, and hence an assured gain for Heaven. If this peace be lasting, there will be*