

Frenchmen come from so great a distance, and were delighted to hear the discourses that I addressed to them upon religion. They all promised to come, in the following spring, to the place where they should learn that I was holding my Mission, in order to be instructed more at leisure than they could then be. They also added that they would endeavor to bring a large number of their countrymen with them, for the same purpose.

Meanwhile, a portion of the Mistassins left shortly afterward for Quebec, to present their respects to Monsieur de Frontenac, the governor of Canada. They also intended to crave his protection against the Iroquois; and to assure him that they took him for their father, and that, to become worthier of being his children, they would continue to love Prayer, for which they knew he was so zealous. I embarked with them. During our journey we were nearly all sick, and four or five of the older ones died. These good Savages had never seen any other missionaries before they saw me; and, as they were converted on receiving the very first instructions, it was God's will to thus reward their promptness in obeying grace, by granting them the favor of dying shortly after their baptism. I was somewhat weakened by the hunger that I had endured on various occasions, and by the fatigues caused me by so many arduous journeys; but God gave me still sufficient strength to carry out the rest of my undertaking.

We left on the 6th of May, and made three long portages before reaching the river of the Mistassins and that of the Papinachois. Bad weather, rain, and mosquitoes greatly annoyed us. I nevertheless visited some poor sick persons, and four large cabins,