

[confraternity] at la prairie. Our newly-baptized people returned in autumn, and landed at la prairie, where in the course of time they and many others have built a fine village. They spent the rest of the year in the same cabin which the french had built for them. At the beginning of winter, They set out to go hunting; they did not go far, and found no beasts, because of the short time that they spent in the woods,—for they betook themselves to the village on all the great feast-days, and especially at christmas. They carried with them a little calendar, in which feasts and sundays were marked by the hand of the father who instructed them. Thus they were all filled with the grace of baptism, which they preserved even in the woods—being punctual in saying prayers, both morning and evening. This wintering became the rule of all the others who have followed, and who have since sanctified many savages in the woods. Some have died there as predestined souls; others have lived there like angels for a period of six months; others have exposed themselves there for the faith, and have acted as apostles, preaching all winter to those who were not yet christians.

*Father
Rafeix.*

1669.

While our savages were thus hunting, father Rafeix caused the land to be prepared; and, his good christians having returned, he marked out their field for them, after the planting was done. François Xavier built a cabin, which in future was to be the pattern for all the others—a cabin so blessed that it is the mother, as it were, of sixty others, in the midst of which it stands; and that the one who built