

Extract from a letter of Father Joseph Aubery,
missionary of the Gospel in New France, to
Father Joseph Jouvençy, concerning
the Mission of St. François de
Sales, in the same New France.

CONGRATULATE me and render thanks to God, my dear Father;³⁵ in this my Mission I have only three or four souls not yet baptized; the others honor Christ and virtue,—not, however, without effort, as is necessary among barbarians who have to struggle assiduously against drunkenness, arrogance, and superstition. Once heavy with wine, they hearken neither to reason nor to any of the laws of piety; they haughtily condemn the Priest, however kindly and justly he may admonish them,—especially if he be a young man; and they insolently deride him as being deficient in wisdom, for with them age constitutes the better part of Wisdom and authority. They are pitifully attached to Their dreams, and other superstitious observances of that nature. You will say that such practices are unbecoming to Christians; I admit that, if all were such as it behooves real and genuine Christians to be. In our Europe how many Christians sin more grievously? The Christian law does not make men free from sin, nor does it impose the obligation to act aright. Then, as you formerly taught us in Rhetoric, *Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret.*