



Memorial of Father Loyard: Upon the present
condition of the Abnaquis.

OF all the Savages of New France, those who have rendered, and who are in a condition to render, the greatest services are the Abnaquis. This nation is composed of five Villages, which in all make five hundred men bearing arms. Two of these Villages are situated along the River St. Lawrence near three Rivers,—one below that Town, which is called the Village of Becancour; and the other above, which is called the Village of St. Francois.

The three other villages are in the region of Acadia, and are called: Naïrañtwak, upon the river Canibekki [Kennebec]; Panawaniské, upon the river Pentagouet [Penobscot]; and Medoktek, upon the River St. John. The village of Naïrañtwak is nearest to New England, that of Medoktek is nearest to Acadia, and that of Panawanske is almost in the middle.²⁵

These three Villages have their different routes by which to go to Quebec in a few days, each one by its own river. It is this which renders their situation so important as regards Canada, of which they are the strongest defenses. And this is what ought to attract the attention of the Court, that it may prevent the English from profiting by the war which they are carrying on with the Savages, and from destroying these villages,—or, what would amount to the same thing, obliging the Savages to