

enterprise has, therefore, *fallen to pieces*.³⁷ About thirty Frenchmen have remained here; only the excellence of the climate and of the soil has kept them, for, in other respects they have received no assistance. My arrival here has pleased them because they now think that the Company of the Indies has no intention of abandoning this district,—as they had supposed it would,—inasmuch as they have sent a Missionary here; I cannot tell you with what joy these good people received me.³⁸ I found them in great need of all things; this poverty, with the excessive and extraordinary heat which has prevailed this year, has prostrated all the people with sickness. I have relieved them as far as I have been able; the few remedies which I brought with me came to them at exactly the right time. The care that I have bestowed upon the sick has not prevented my giving, every Sunday and every Feast-day, an exhortation during Mass, and an instruction after Vespers. I have had the satisfaction of seeing that the majority of them have profited by these to approach the Sacraments, and that the rest are inclined to profit by them. I shall be well compensated for the greatest labors, if they be followed by the conversion of even one sinner.

The hardships of the sea and those of the Mississippi, which are still greater; the change of climate, of food, of everything, has in no respect injured my health; I am the only Frenchman who has been preserved from sickness since I came here. Nevertheless I was pitied for my feeble condition when I left France; for the opposite reason, no one pitied Father Souel, who has already been sick three times since he came into the country.³⁹ Pray to God that