

repeatedly been in danger of death from the Sacs and Foxes. He is worn out with hardships and sufferings; but there is no one who can be sent to relieve him. Aulneau asks his correspondent to send him the computations for eclipses visible in France and America, that he may use them to determine longitudes in the wilderness.

CCVIII. Nau writes (October 2, 1735) to Bonin a long account of the mission at Sault St. Louis (Caughnawaga). With this, he incidentally gives considerable information about the climate of Canada, the physical and mental characteristics of the Iroquois in his mission, their costumes, etc. "The Iroquois and hurons are more inclined to the practice of virtue than other nations; they are the only savages capable of refined feelings; all the others are to be set down as Cowardly, ungrateful, and voluptuous. If there were no french in canada, we would have as many saints in our mission as we now have christians; but the bad example and the solicitations of the french are a Very great obstacle to the sanctification of our Iroquois." Notwithstanding the punishments imposed on Frenchmen who sell liquor to the Indians,—flogging, the galleys, etc.,—"still our savages find all the brandy they want; and, as soon as they are drunk, they are capable of any crime."

Nau is adopted by the tribe, and receives the name of Hatériata, "the brave man." He recounts the pious exercises and duties of his mission, which include his ministry to the French people settled at the Sault. The savages are unusually proficient in church music, even more so than the whites; "neither Cordeliers nor nuns ever sang as do our Iroquois men