

sinning," and they baptize some children at the point of death; but "those who recover seldom fail later to fall away from the faith."

CCIX. Another letter to Bonin, from Aulneau, is written (April 30, 1736) from Fort St. Charles among the Crees, "on the southwest side of lake of the woods." He reaches that place by way of Lake Superior, after a journey of four months from Montreal. He has spent the winter at Fort St. Charles,—a rough stockade, and a group of wretched cabins—southwest of Lake of the Woods; and he intends to go for the summer to Lake Winnipeg, to evangelize the Assiniboines and Crees. In the following December, he is planning to go with some of the former tribe to another savage nation, apparently dwelling on the Columbia River; and he hopes thus to reach the ocean.

As for the savages northwest of Lake Superior, "and especially the Kristinaux [Crees], I do not believe that, unless it be by miracle, they can ever be persuaded to embrace the faith; . . . they are superstitious and morally degraded, to a degree beyond conception. . . . Both English and French, by their accursed avarice, have given them a taste for brandy, and have thus been instrumental in adding to their other vices that of drunkenness; so that brandy is their only topic of conversation, the sole object of their petitions; nor can they ever be counted upon unless they receive enough to get drunk on." Those tribes have notions of heaven and hell; but these are absurd and material to the last degree. Aulneau is "the first missionary who has as yet undertaken to systematize the language of the Kristinaux;" but he has poor facilities for