

from france to Canada. What kept us so long at sea was that we always had contrary winds and so violent that we had to change our foretopmast when off shore near the grand bank. We were eight days tempest-tossed, unable to carry a shred of sail; our ship, like a mere skiff, became the plaything of the billows, and the seas dashed over the gunwale as if it had been a shell. A pirate or an English man-of-war would have made short work of us, had they attacked us at the time we had so many sick on board. We seemed, however, safe from alarms of that kind. The size of our ship struck fear into all whom we met; we frightened even one of the King's vessels we came across at the grand bank. They caught sight of us 7 hours before we noticed them. They immediately bore away; but the wind was not to their liking, and as we sailed faster we overhauled them about 3 in the afternoon, and relieved them of further apprehension. Their ship was the *Charante*, commanded by Monsieur de la Sauzaie. He sent an officer with "naval refreshments," that is, *liqueurs*. We had a good laugh over their fright; but had they been enemies they would have had more reason to make fun of us, for they had had the decks cleared for action since eight in the morning, and we had not a cannon in position to fire.

At last the fatigues and dangers of the sea are past, and nothing but what is pleasant awaits me. Reverend father de Lauzon means to send me to the mission of Saut St. Louis, where he himself spent 17 years. I shall reach there in a fortnight. It is the most agreeable and flourishing mission of Canada. The number of christian savages there is nearly twelve hundred. I will be associated with