

nevertheless hardly a savage had retained any other idea of our Holy Religion than a great desire to learn the principles thereof. The young people had never heard of it. The older ones merely mumbled some undistinguishable fragments of the *pater* and of the *Ave* of their forefathers. Licentiousness, which prevailed to the utmost degree among them, polygamy, and, still more, drunkenness,—in a word, all the evils born of the grossest profligacy,—were the sole idols worshiped by these poor blind people. They alleged, as a justification for their misconduct, the melancholy scandals formerly set before them by the French, who sojourned temporarily or who remained among them as employees. Thus I arrived here after leaving our dear and peaceful college. The savages manifested their joy by several discharges from their guns. At first, these rejoicings seemed to me an augury of good. But, after I had taken possession of an old dilapidated chapel, the first spectacle my eyes witnessed was that of some savages who were excessively intoxicated, and of others who were tipsy, and who with a maudlin air came to embrace me, and to ask me to confess them. Who could have restrained himself at such approaches?

The montagnais who is mild, affable, and peaceful is easily led to do what is desired, provided he be looked after. Being credulous and not addicted to retorting, he wishes all that we wish; being timid, he obeys; being poor, through ignorance of the value of his furs elsewhere, he hopes to be assisted; and this I began to make them fairly understand, in Algonkin, to win them, or rather to attract them, to Jesus Christ. When not under the influence of liquor, they seemed to enter into my thoughts. It