

Letter of Father Armand de la Richardie to  
Reverend Father Franciscus Retz, General  
of the Society of Jesus, at Rome.

WHEN I arrived here I found not a single savage professing the christian faith, although some of the older ones, while suffering from sickness, had formerly been washed in the sacred waters by the first missionaries. About forty years ago, shaking the dust from their feet, they had abandoned that nation, which was uncircumcised in heart. One of the chiefs of the nation, Hooisens by name, after delaying a long time, professed the christian faith, and set such an example to all his relatives that not even a single one of his kindred resisted the Holy ghost. A short time afterward, he was taken from among the living; and only the slightest hope remained of bringing this throng of savages to the most sweet service of christ. Wherefore, not realizing the depth of God's wisdom, I had nearly prepared for my departure,—thinking that when once this chief, who had been the untiring protector of the Christian interests, was dead, dead also was the hope of promoting God's glory. While my mind wavered thus, uncertain and spent with weariness, the goodness of our Savior appeared in this, that the savages of both sexes and of all ages, after several fruitless suggestions and attempts, flocked joyfully to the exposition of the Christian doctrine, and to the public discourses delivered in the thoroughfares. Furthered by His grace, God's