

Tadoussac. "I will do what I can," he replied, "provided that the Father does not meddle in it." It would be, however, very proper that he should sometimes meddle, for the Reason that I have just given,—namely, that the agents being jealous of one another, and seeing only with annoyance the success of others, are not much inclined to give up, in the favor of others, young men who are of no use to themselves, but who would be useful to others. In a word, when one considers that the seal is much more abundant at Tadoussac than at the Jeremie islets, and that it is rare to see the chase fail there, while they hardly make 30 or 40 Casks of oil at the Jeremie Islets, I think it will be decided to take the savages away from the islets and from Chekoutimi, in order to place Tadoussac upon a sure footing. There are savages who would not ask anything better, but they are afraid of the agent at their post; and it will never be except by virtue of suitable orders that these savages can be had at Tadoussac, against the opposition made by the Agents. I will even add that the savages of whom I speak accomplish very little about Chekoutimi, and that they have trouble in paying their debts; whereas in coming to Tadoussac they would be better off and would furnish some profit.

A great amount of food is consumed at the post of Tadoussac. This ought not to cause surprise when one remembers: 1st, that the savages are there in the course of the year. They go into the woods in the autumn, to seek something with which to clothe themselves; and, in the spring, to indemnify themselves for the bad food upon which they have lived during the winter, and to capture a few martens on the way. 2nd, during The summer, they are