

*Minerve* did not take in an inch of water more than usual. The people had recourse to prayer, and many vows were made. At sunrise, we were already at a little distance from the rocks; all day we beat from one shore to the other, and in the evening we had forty-five brasses of water, and soon afterward could no longer find bottom. Our people took breath, and the next day we sang the *Te Deum* as an act of thanksgiving. All the rest of the voyage was quite calm, except the day and night of the 6th of March, on the eve of which Saint Elmo's fire had announced bad weather; the tempest was violent and extended so far that at Bayonne, a thousand leagues distant from the ship, it was equally felt.

Finally, on the 6th of April, *La Minerve* entered the roadstead of Saint Sebastian, in Spain, because the weather did not permit her to proceed to the Bar of Bayonne. The Jesuits of the college at Saint Sebastian received the French missionaries with the kindness that one naturally feels toward strangers, especially when one sees them unjustly persecuted. These Fathers were greatly astonished that persecution had gone into the midst of North America in search of missionaries who were there only to convert unbelievers and to maintain the French in the practice of religion and piety. Another cause of astonishment for them was what has already been mentioned, "What claims could France have upon subjects ceded to the crown of England by the treaty of peace?" To this astonishment of the Spanish Fathers succeeded, in turn, the surprise of the recently-arrived Jesuits. They had been sent to France, and they saw their brethren of France, banished from the kingdom, now coming to Spain; but they