

ary labors of the Jesuits, from whence, as a starting-point, they might spread the Catholic religion among the vast tribes supposed to inhabit the country South and West. The Fathers Brebeuf and Daniel were the first missionaries. In 1634, after great delay, owing to the unwillingness of the Hurons to take them, they departed from Quebec, and with great difficulty and danger arrived at their mission and built a small chapel, which they dedicated to "St. Joseph." The fruit of their labors was small. Some five or six adults were baptized; but they consoled themselves with the fact "of having assured the eternal safety of a great number of infants, who expired immediately after having received the rites of baptism." The Indians listened to the relations of these good Fathers relative to the mysteries of their most holy religion, but it must be acknowledged the results were but indifferent; and even when they exhibited the marks of entire conviction, "it was evident they had not paid the least attention to what was said, nor comprehended it if they had."

"I saw you had no person to keep you company," said one of the Huron chiefs to the missionary, whom, from the attention, modesty, and reverence manifested, the good father hoped to convert,—*"I saw you had no person to keep you company and pray with you. I had compassion on your solitude, I therefore remained with you. As others now wish to render you the same service, I will retire."*

Even some who went so far as to demand and receive baptism, and performed, for some time, all the outward duties of a convert, acknowledged they had done it with a view of pleasing the "Robe Noire," who had persuaded them to change their religion.

"You preach well," said a Huron chief to Father Brebeuf, "and there is nothing in all you teach us but what is probably true enough, and will answer for those beyond the sea, from whence you came; but do you not see we inhabit a