

of destruction: * * * the Commerce in brandy, and the Commerce of the savage women with the French. Both are carried on in an equally public manner, without our being able to remedy the evil, because we are not supported by the Commandants. * * * All the villages of our savages are now only Taverns, as regards drunkenness; and Sodoms, as regards immorality—from which we must withdraw, and which we must abandon to the just Anger and vengeance of God.”

Carheil regards the commandants and garrisons as enemies of the missions. “All the pretended service which it is sought to make people believe that they Render to the King is reduced to 4 chief occupations.” These are: “Keeping a public Tavern for the sale of brandy,” extending this traffic from one post to another, “keeping open house in their dwellings for all the women of their acquaintance,” and gambling. As a result, the entire time of the soldiers is spent in drinking, gambling, quarreling, and licentiousness; the savages are scandalized thereby, and the influence of the missionaries upon them is weakened when they see that the latter are powerless to remedy these evils. The above-mentioned occupations are the only ones pursued by the soldiers, who are therefore utterly useless and even pernicious to the country; and without them there would be no commandants—officials who come to Mackinac “solely for trading, without troubling themselves about anything else.” They care nothing for the missionaries, save when they can use the latter for their own selfish purposes; and they arrogate to themselves all authority over both French and savages, which leaves the missionaries without aid. “Before there were any Commandants here, the missionaries were always listened to by the traders,” who were afraid of the Fathers. Now, the traders know that their evil acts will be condoned or connived at by the commandants, and they have no fear of the missionaries.

Another grievance of the missionaries is that the commandants secure from the home government allowances for making gifts to the savages. The natural result is, that the latter will now do nothing except in return for presents; and that they learn to employ all sorts of stratagems and intrigues in order to secure these presents, and to cheat the commandants in every