

the air,—which for some time past, they said, had been corrupted; as appeared by the great number of Sick persons whom they had in their Villages,—and to defend them against their Enemies.

I replied to them that the King was very powerful, and perhaps even more so than they realized, but that his power did not extend over the Elements; and that when Sickness, or any other like disasters, desolated his Provinces, he applied, in order to make them cease, to the great Spirit who made Heaven and Earth, and who alone is the Sovereign Master of Nature. I told them that they must do the same, and that they would derive benefit therefrom; but that, in order to merit a hearing for their request, they must begin by recognizing that Spirit, and rendering to him the Worship and homage which he had a right to expect from all reasonable Creatures. I told them that they could do nothing better, or more pleasing to the King, than to listen to the Father¹ whom his Majesty had sent to them, and to become docile to his instructions; that he was a man dear to Heaven; that his manner of life among them must surely have made them conceive great esteem for him; and that his charity toward the Sick and all those who had need of his aid must have convinced them of the tender and sincere affection that he bore them. At the end, I told them that I would not accept their Collar unless they would promise me to behave toward the Missionary very differently from the way in which they had acted during the past; and that they must hereafter refrain from giving him any reason to complain of their intractableness. I said: “As for the protection of the King, for which you ask, and your entreaty that I shall induce him to undertake your defense against your Enemies, that great prince has forestalled your desires; he has given, on that point, strict orders to *Ononthio*, who himself was already inclined to execute them with the zeal and affection of a Father.² You will have no cause to doubt that, if you pay attention to the Commandant whom he sends you. You cannot possibly be

¹ Father Pierre Chardon, a Jesuit.—CHARLEVOIX.

² They always call the Governors and the Commandants their “Fathers.”—CHARLEVOIX.