

and as I cannot suffer my fellow-man (whose Flesh is dark like my own) to perish miserably for want of succor, I offer thee my Land; thou wilt find it vast enough to settle in; fertile enough to abundantly supply all thy needs and, finally, sufficiently remote to enable thee to live in safety and far beyond the reach of thine enemies.”

The Abenakis gave information of this message to their missionary,¹ and explained it to him quite naturally. The only thing respecting which they were lacking in sincerity was in giving him to understand that the Dragon represented the English alone. The missionary, continuing to rely on the long standing attachment of the Abenakis to the French nation, considered that he had ample reason for congratulation on seeing that the former seemed to enter with pleasure into the project of the Answer which he suggested that they should send to the Renards. This was to put the Renard and the Abenakis Villages on two sides of a Picture; at the top of the Picture would be a Crucifix from which would issue brilliant rays shedding an admirable light over the Abenakis' villages; and to represent the villages of the Renards covered by a black cloud casting dense darkness over all their lands. The explanation of the Picture would be:—“My Brother, I am very grateful to thee for the sentiments of compassion which touch thee at the sight of my wretchedness. It is true that I feel it as thou representest it. I must, however, confess that if I am not altogether insensible to my poverty I, at least, endure it patiently and even with joy. I have the happiness of living here with the Frenchman who has taught me to know the Author of my Being, and what I should fear and hope for after this short and miserable life. I prefer the advantages of an immortal life to all the Riches and pleasures thou offerest me. I cannot better express my gratitude to thee than by begging thee to open thine eyes to the light that the Frenchman has brought into this country,” etc.

This proposal was therefore received apparently with

¹This was Father Joseph Aubrey, for biographical sketch of whom see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 337.—ED.