

Letter by Reverend Father Chaumonnot, Jesuit
and Missionary.

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FROM LORETTE, IN CANADA, november 11, 1680.

GENTLEMEN,

It is very evident that you are the true and devoted servants of the Virgin, since you are imitators of her virtues, especially of her humility. Is it not being very humble for persons like you, so eminent in virtue, in learning, and in nobility, to deign to allow poor Savages to participate in your prayers? For a little kindness that a person of rank shows to a poor peasant, the latter considers himself under great obligations. What sentiments of gratitude, then, shall not our poor Hurons have for you, from whom they have received such magnificent presents? They would certainly have reason to say to each of you what the devout Saint Bernard said to the Savior: *Tantò mihi rarior quantò pro me vilior*. You have gained our respect and affection all the more justly as you have the more abased yourselves in associating us all, poor barbarians that we are, with yourselves. I find no passage in the Gospel where Our Lord shows more joy than that which he showed, one day, in regard to the goodness of his father in communicating himself to those for whom the world has only contempt. I have not the least doubt, Gentlemen, that you caused him a new joy when you did for our poor neophytes what you have