

The inscription is clearly and neatly wrought, but not with sufficient skill to suggest the hand of a practised stone engraver. It was, in all probability, cut by Father Loyard himself with a pocket knife. The name P. Danielou, Loyard's successor, who came upon the river about 1730, faintly scratched on the lower left-hand corner, is evidently a later addition; its presence there, however, is of historic interest and will be again referred to.

French missionaries labored at a very early period for the conversion of the St. John river Indians. The first at the Meductie village, of whom we have any definite knowledge, was Father Simon, one of the Recollet priests of the Franciscan order. He is frequently mentioned by John Gyles in his narrative, and always in the most favorable terms. Indeed, had it not been for Father Simon's kindly interest the English captive would, on more than one occasion, have fallen a victim to the malice of his captors. In speaking of the barbarities practised by the savages upon their unfortunate prisoners, Gyles remarks:

"The priest of the river was of the order of St. Francis, a gentleman of a humane, generous disposition. In his sermons he severely reprehended the Indians for their barbarities to captives. He would often tell them that, excepting their errors in religion, the English were a better people than themselves."

There are several contemporary references to Father Simon. Charlevoix mentions him, as also does Villebon in his journal. Monsieur Tibierge in a memoir on Acadia, written at Fort Nashwaak,* October 1, 1695, says:

"There are here two Recollets, Father Simon who, in reality, (*actuellement*) is with the savages of Medoktek, and Father Elizee, the chaplain at Fort Nashwaak. Father Simon ought to spend this autumn at Quebec to tender his submission (*obéissance*) to his Superior; he is a very conscientious man, who only concerns himself with the affairs of his mission. Father Elizee is a man so retiring that he does not seem to me to have meddled with aught but his ministerial functions."

Monsieur Champigny, the Intendant at Quebec, about the same time, October, 1695, wrote to the French minister that he had forwarded the census of the inhabitants on the river St. John, which had been made by Father Simon, the Recollet who was missionary on the river, and which might be relied on, he being a very honest man.

Such testimony as the above corroborates that of John Gyles, and shows Father Simon's devotion to the peaceable duties of his office. Yet

* The site of this fort was just above the Nashwaak, on the bank of the St. John river, opposite Fredericton.