

that are unwilling, and induce them by all possible means to come and attend. They also see that the Indians are attentive at the meeting, and will awake those who have a tendency to sleep. If there are some disorders to redress, the watchmen will bring the guilty ones before the captain or the chief, as the case may be, and will even go a great distance to fetch them. In case some are punished the watchmen will see that they perform their penance properly. A watchman that is devoted and energetic is very useful in a band, and he alone can maintain order and good conduct, where the authority of the chief and captain would otherwise fail.

In the beginning everything has to be done. The souls are to be brought into the fold of the Good Shepherd one by one; they seldom enter it in crowds.

Suppose a Missionary encounters a new tribe, a band of infidels, who have not this far experienced the grace of God. Many a one will say: "There is nothing to be done with such people." Instead of finding fault with them in everything, suppose we consider the circumstances in which they have been placed. We cannot expect them to come to us unless they understand what it is for. Possibly those Indians never had the chance to hear the religion of Christ expounded to them in the proper light. It is not enough to preach the Gospel; one must see that the people to whom one speaks understand what one has to say. This is often the case among civilized people, who have not always the religious instruction which the preacher supposes; how much more so in the case of Indians. Very few would refuse to embrace the Christian religion if they once understood it. The principal

thing is to infuse it into their minds, but how can that be done without having access to them? It is highly essential, then, in the beginning to reach the Indians and to win their affection, or at least their interest, which can be easily done by kindness and by little services for which there are frequent occasions. One soon becomes the friend of those poor people, and from friendship issues confidence.

One must by all means avoid offending or displeasing them, especially in the beginning, which is not an easy matter. Indians under circumstances assumed above are very rude and have not much regard for a person they consider as a stranger and to whom they suppose intentions altogether different from those one is really animated in approaching them. They see everyone around them working for earthly interests, and it will take them a certain time to understand that it is possible that there should be people who would consecrate themselves to the service of God for the salvation of souls. So they are bound to be diffident; they will express their sentiments openly and offend without having precisely the intention of offending. They are so used to hear others express themselves freely that they naturally do the same. It is very easy for one to be led to feel indignant on account of rudeness or ingratitude shown by the Indians, but it is always better to restrain one's self and wait for the time when the grace of God and a better understanding of one's intentions will bring them to a sense of the regard due to one's position. All of which goes to show that there is a great deal of patience and self-restraint required for a person who undertakes to work amongst the Indians.