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## THE MISSION OF FATHER RASLES

AS DEPICTED BY HIMSELF.

A Translation from "Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses," Paris, 1781.

BY E. C. CUMMINGS.

*Read before the Maine Historical Society, December 9, 1892.*

A LITTLE more than a hundred and sixty-eight years ago, August 23, 1724, in the course of urgent hostilities between the New England colonists and the native population, a Christian village near what is now Norridgewock, was destroyed, and a Christian missionary, together with a considerable number of his small flock, met a violent death.

At this day we have no occasion to commiserate either the missionary or his savage disciples. They took their share in the struggle of warring interests and civilizations, in an age of military enterprise, and the sacrifices they were called to make were such as seem to be unavoidable in the evolution of those energies through which new and more peaceful worlds are brought into being. It is the privilege of a later and happier age to appreciate martial virtue and pious devotion on whichever side of any great conflict they may have found a conspicuous illustration. And especially with reference to individual men, as we see them doing their work in the stream of human affairs which they cannot control and by which they are borne on to their destiny, we feel obliged to consider attentively

