

Mr. Picquet eminently possessed the qualities requisite to effect the removal of the English from our neighbourhood. Therefore the General, the Intendent, and the Bishop deferred absolutely to him in the selection of the settlement for this new Mission, and despite the efforts of those who had opposite interests, he was entrusted with the undertaking.

The Fort of La Presentation is situated at 302 deg. 40 min. Longitude, and at 44 deg. 50 min. Latitud. on the Presentation River, which the Indians name Soegasti; thirty leagues above Mont-Real; fifteen leagues from Lake Ontario or Lake Frontenac, which with Lake Champlain gives rise to the River St. Laurence; 15 leagues west of the source of the River Hudson which falls into the sea at New-York. Fort Frontenac had been built near there in 1671, to arrest the incursion of the English and the Iroquois; the bay served as a port for the Mercantile and Military Marine which had been formed there on that sort of sea where the tempests are as frequent and as dangerous as on the ocean. But the Post of La Presentation appeared still more important, because the harbour is very good, the river freezes there rarely, the lands are excellent, and that quarter can be fortified most advantageously.

Besides, that Mission was adapted by its situation to reconcile to us the Iroquois savages of the Five Nations who inhabit between Virginia and Lake Ontario. The Marquis of Beauharnois and afterwards M. de la Jonquière, Governor General of New France, were very desirous that we should occupy it, especially at a time when English Jealousy irritated by a war of many years, sought to alienate from us the Tribes of Canada.

This establishment was as if the key of the Colony, because the English, French and Upper Canada savages could not