

—they said they were masters there; and if they had a mind to keep me three or four months, I must stay. I urged my necessity—pleaded hard for them to permit two of the Frenchmen to go with me, instead of Indians, as I could converse better with them: after long debating, they allowed me to set off in the morning with two Frenchmen.

#### SUNDAY, November 29.

A GREAT deal of snow had fallen in the night, and we did not set out—the day proved a mild thawing day—the Indians all met together to worship—they are rigid ceremonious Papists—great bigots—know little of the grounds of their religion; but it is pompous, and that is enough.<sup>1</sup> To show their zeal, where the Frenchmen crossed themselves once, the Indians would do it twice; but their religious zeal is at this time pretty much heated with brandy—their priests must have taken a great deal of pains with them—they sing very well.<sup>2</sup> (21) The Canadians will have it in their power to play off the Indians at any time against our back settlements, by encouraging this religious bigotry; indeed it gains ground in Canada.

#### MONDAY, November 30.

ABOUT ten o'clock we set out in a bark canoe, which I had bought of the savages—there were Nicholas Gautier, Joseph Rishar,<sup>3</sup> and myself—The young man who was mate of the vessel, is not in a condition to travel—his legs and feet are very much swoln—he proposes to stay till the Indians will let some other Frenchmen go—I left him thirty-two pounds of beaver, and a beaver coat, to dispose of for a supply for him—We got about three leagues<sup>4</sup>—the wind was pretty high, and very cold at north-west.

#### TUESDAY, December 1.

SET out early this morning—the sea was pretty rough, but we were in hopes of its becoming more moderate—the wind was west-north-west

1. This settlement at Church Point had been the seat of an Indian mission from early times. Thus it was apparently visited as a mission by Father LeClerc in 1677, as narrated in his *Nouvelle Relation de la Gaspésie*, Paris, 1691, (in translation in Hay's *Canadian History Readings*, 271). It was here without doubt that Richard Denys de Fronsac, in the name of his father, Nicolas Denys, Governor and Proprietor of all these coasts, gave to the church three arpents of land for a mission in 1685. It was visited soon after by Bishop St. Valler of Québec, as the

latter describes in his *Estat Present de L'Eglise*, Paris, 1688 (Québec Reprint of 1856, page 32.)

2. There is other mention of the excellent singing of the Indians. See the *Jesuit Relations*, (Thwaites edition), XXVIII, 33 and XXX, 141.

3. Of course Richard, a common Acadian name.

4. Apparently, from the distance, to some place at or near the Lower Bay du Vin (or French Bay), very likely in the vicinity of French River.