

APPENDIX.

Account of Father Râle's MS. Indian Dictionary.

I have thought it would not be uninteresting, and might be of some use, to give in this place a short bibliographical account of the valuable Manuscript Dictionary of the *Abnaki* language mentioned in p. 12 of the preceding paper. The author of it, Father *Sebastian Râle* (or *Rasles*, for the name is written both ways) was one of the Jesuit Missionaries, and came to New England in the year 1689. He resided with the Indians principally at a settlement called *Norridgewock* (which he calls *Nanrantsouak*) on the river *Kennebeck*, upwards of thirty years, and was killed in a battle between the Indians and English in 1724. A short but interesting memoir of this able missionary was lately published by the Rev. *Thaldeus M. Harris, D.D.* in the *Massachusetts Historical Collections*, vol. viii. Second Series, p. 250. In the same volume will be found copies of some of his letters, with other papers respecting him, which I transcribed from the originals deposited in the archives of Massachusetts; among them is a very spirited manifesto, in *French*, from various tribes of Eastern Indians against the Provincial Government of Massachusetts, probably written by *Râle* himself. Other letters of his, and an account of his death, will be found in that valuable work, well known among the learned, under the title of *Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses* (published in 26 volumes, 12mo.) which contains Letters or Reports of the Jesuit Missionaries in various parts of the world: See vol. vi. p. 127.

The MS. is a quarto volume and in the hand-writing of *Râle* himself. On the first leaf is the following note:

“1691. Il y a un an que je suis parmi les sauvages, je commence a mettre en ordre en forme de dictionnaire les mots que j'apprens.” Immediately below this there is, in an old hand-writing, the following: