

1639. the number of Indians increased from day to day, and where they could readily receive the sick from the city and country. Nothing could be more cramped or less furnished than these convents. The servants of the Lord took all the inconvenience for themselves, the sick and their pupils experiencing none of it. Yet God wished to subject both to the severest trials. The Ursuline seminary was first attacked by small-pox,¹ and an epidemic brought to the hospital more sick than there were beds or even rooms to put them in.²

These afflictions did not disconcert the nuns. They provided for all in a way not easily conceived, and never was seen more clearly what the power of charity can effect. What surprised all was, that in such a prostration, so extreme a change of life and climate, with coarse food, great hardships, and the privation of all the comforts which custom has made necessities of life, these holy women, incessantly amid the sick, long enjoyed, almost without exception, perfect health,³ and were able to add to their painful labors the study of Indian languages.⁴

The Canada Company still neglects that colony.

So much spiritual succor, arriving at once from France, could not but give a great impulse to religious affairs. Great changes indeed took place among the Indians, and it was only necessary to follow up these first steps to bring most of the nations of Canada into the bosom of the Church. The outlay made at Sylleri to gather the newly converted and those who were anxious to be instructed; the two establishments just mentioned; all the missions re-enforced by unwearied men, who never spared themselves; the piety and charity of the chief settlers, who refused nothing to aid them, even to lending their own beds for the use of the sick, made this one of those precious moments which it is all-important to seize, and

¹ Charlevoix's Life, p. 265; Creux-ius, p. 258; Les Ursulines de Quebec, i., p. 29.

² Juchereau, p. 19.

³ The nuns all fell sick: Juchereau, p. 20.

⁴ Ib., p. 18; Les Ursulines de Quebec, i., p. 28.