

This was not the only unpleasant adventure that befell Father Lallemant on this voyage, and there was not one of his fellow-missionaries who did not experience something of the kind. Several were even severely beaten. Nothing better testified the weakness of the colony, from which the Indians every day learned more clearly that they had little to fear or hope. On the other hand, the extreme desire of the missionaries to bring all these nations under the yoke of the faith made them endure this ill-treatment, and their passion for sufferings made them find consolation even in them,—the more so, as they often resulted from the success of their labors and were the glorious marks of their victory.

1640.

Sufferings
of the Mis-
sionaries.

Nothing was more apostolical than the life which they led. All their moments were numbered by some heroic action, by conversions or sufferings, which they regarded as real compensation when their labors had not produced all the fruit which they had anticipated. From four o'clock in the morning, when they rose, unless travelling, till eight, they generally spent secluded. It was the time of prayer, and the only one which they had for their exercises of piety. At eight o'clock each one went whither duty called. Some visited the sick; others followed in the fields those engaged in cultivating the earth; others visited neighboring towns, which were destitute of pastors. These excursions produced several good effects; for, in the first place, few or no children died unbaptized. Even adults, who had refused instruction in health, yielded in sickness. They could not resist the ingenious and constant charity of their physicians. In the second place, these Indians, day by day, became more familiar with the missionaries. This intercourse civilized their manners and insensibly dispelled their prejudices. Nor was any thing more edifying than the conduct of the new Christians. The more they cost the missionaries to win them to Jesus Christ, the greater was the consolation to see sentiments in their hearts where grace found no obstacle

Their occu-
pations.