

the neighborhood and along the shore, for greater ease in hunting and fishing.¹ The summer wore away peacefully enough ; fervor grew up amid this transplanted Christian flock ; and the missionaries had the consolation of baptizing as many as three thousand idolaters. But as they planted little or nothing, as the fishery was unproductive, and the resources of the chase soon exhausted, they had not gone far into the autumn before provisions began to fail. They were soon after reduced to extremities which horrify us. It is enough to mention that they were driven to disinter half-decayed bodies, to devour them ; that mothers ate the babes that starved to death on their breasts ; and children did not shrink from feeding on the bodies of those to whom they owed their being.²

A famine, productive of such terrible scenes, could not but entail great diseases. In fact, maladies broke out of a contagious character, and the more destructive among people who cannot control themselves sufficiently to avoid contagion. But it was amid this very desolation that the evangelical laborers gathered the most precious fruits of their labors. All these scourges and horrors of death ever before their eyes, found among the Christians only submissive hearts. There was not one of these neophytes who wavered the least in the most perfect resignation to the orders of Heaven—who did not kiss with respect, and even with thanksgiving, the hand that smote him.³

These are the virtues to which the Indians are most inclined by their calm and patient character. Their natural sloth and indolence dim somewhat the lustre, and they

¹ On leaving St. Mary's, June 14, 1649 (Relation, 1650, p. 3), the missionaries set fire to all their mission-buildings, totally destroying the fruit of their long labors of nine or ten years : Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 557 ; Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1649, p. 30 ; 1650, p. 2.

² Relation, 1650, p. 4 ; Carayon, *Documents Inédits*, p. 248 ; Creux-

ius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 560 ; Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 124. For an account of the sufferings, see also Chaumonot, *Autobiographie*, pp. 62-4.

³ Relation, 1650, p. 4 ; Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 125 ; Carayon, *Documents Inédits*, xii., p. 249 ; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 561.