

been able to retain only these words, "Jesus, have mercy on me"—while sailing on Lake Huron, was overtaken by such intense cold, that all who accompanied her died. She said her ordinary prayer with all the fervor of her heart; and she afterwards declared, that every time she repeated it, a sensible warmth animated her, which lasted till relief came. If this result is not attributed to a miracle, we must recognize in it a fervor of mind strong enough to act on the senses, which is one of the great marvels of grace.<sup>2</sup>

1650.

Famine, and sickness, its inevitable sequent, had driven this woman and many others, persons of every age and sex, to leave St. Joseph's Isle in midwinter. They supposed the ice strong enough to bear them; but it broke under them, drowning many, while others perished of cold. Several other bands took refuge in out-of-the-way places, where they thought they would be secure against the pursuit of the Iroquois; but these savages discovered their retreat, and committed a fearful carnage among those wretched people, who, happily for them, had not left their island without putting in order the affairs of their conscience.<sup>3</sup>

Those who remained at St. Joseph's, not amounting to three hundred in number, learning the sad fate of their brethren, had no doubt but that the Iroquois would attack them without delay; and after holding many councils on their best course to adopt in order to avoid the same fate, they came to this conclusion. The most important men went to Father Ragueneau, who then governed the mission, and told him that in the deplorable state to which they were reduced they could see but one single means of preventing the total ruin of their nation.<sup>4</sup> This was, that

Many descend to Quebec.

<sup>1</sup> *Jesous taitenr.*

p. 579; Ragueneau, Letter of March

<sup>2</sup> *Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1650, p. 23.*

13, 1650, in Carayon, xii., p. 252.

<sup>3</sup> *Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1650, p. 24; Creuxius, Hist. Canad.*

<sup>4</sup> *Relation de la N. F., 1650, p. 24;*

Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 125; Creuxius, *Hist. Canadensis*, p. 584.