

that we should be sick first, in order to be further out of the clutches of the disease, to make them esteem some [75] little remedies with which we were to assist them, and to have an excellent opportunity to make known to them the master of our lives, showing them that we were indebted to him, to the exclusion of all others, for our recovery! But finally, my Reverend Father, we can say that *perieramus nisi perissemus*, and that perhaps we would be dead now if we had not been sick. It was oftentimes said, during the evil reports that were current about us throughout the country, that if we had not been afflicted as well as the others, they would not have doubted that we were the cause of the disease. Your Reverence knows how they treat poisoners here; we informed you of it last year, and we have lately seen an example of it with our own eyes,—the danger going so far as to enable us to say that we might not have come out of it very cheaply. We all considered ourselves happy to die in this cause; but since it pleased this divine mercy to preserve our lives, it places us under fresh obligations to employ them for his glory, and not to spare ourselves in anything which can advance the conversion of our Savages.