

nently in *medio nationis pravæ*; and yet, with all this, in the opinion of many of them, we are past masters in this art, and have an understanding [107] with the devils. Your Reverence will soon see this calumny exploded, for which may God be forever glorified. We have very plainly perceived his paternal providence in regard to us, and we had the consolation, while they were talking about nothing else than of breaking our heads, of continuing to assist our sick people, and of coöperating in the conversion of several and of preaching his holy Name as often as ever.

On the 29th, all the chief men of our village assembled in our cabin, firmly resolved to do all that we considered proper to incline God to mercy and to obtain from his goodness some relief in this public calamity. The Father Superior had already represented to them that the true and only means of turning away this scourge of heaven, was to believe in God and to make a firm determination to serve him and keep his Commandments. He told them, furthermore, that God took great pleasure in the vows that we addressed to him in these or similar necessities; that we had very often in France seen and experienced good effects therefrom; and thus, that if they would promise him, in case it might please him to make this contagion disappear altogether, to build in the Spring a cabin, or a little Chapel in his honor, as he is the master and author of our lives, they would all have reason to hope [108] for his approval of their request. They had already deliberated upon this by themselves, and the decision they had made was the subject of this second assembly, where the Father Superior instructed them still more particularly upon the importance of the action they were