

nevertheless, as they sometimes found it hard to follow him, and to repeat what he had said, this one served them as instructor, and, besides not losing a single word of the Father's, he repeated them so faithfully and in a voice so clear, that it was easy to believe he spoke from his heart; and several, following his example, tried to show that there was no hypocrisy in what they did. But events give us only too much reason to doubt them. As for this Savage, God has preserved him from the malady, [110] with all those of his cabin, which is one of the most populous of our village, having therein three well-equipped households, and a great number of little children. The matter is all the more remarkable, as, except for another little cabin which has also afforded us a great deal of satisfaction, there is not one which has not had several sick people, and most of them a considerable number of deaths.

On the next day, the 30th, we also made a vow on our part, we and our domestics, both for the welfare of our whole village and for the preservation of our little household. The Father Superior pronounced it at the Mass, in the name of all, holding in his hand the Holy Sacrament of the altar; we bound ourselves to say each three Masses, one in honor of our Lord, another in honor of the blessed Virgin, and a third in honor of St. Joseph,—with the determination to renew, for this same purpose, on the day of the immaculate Conception of the same virgin, the vow that we had made last year. As for our domestics, they bound themselves to three special communions, and to say their beads twelve times. For our part, we have now every reason to praise God, who has granted to us all the favor of passing the winter in