

very good health, although the greater part of the time we have been among [111] the sick and the dead, and although we have seen many fall sick and die, merely through the communication that they had with one another. The Savages were astonished at it, and are still astonished every day, saying in reference to us, "Those people are not men, they are demons." God will grant them, if it shall please him, grace to recognize some day that *miseriordiæ domini, quia non sumus consumpti, quia non defecerunt miserati-ones eius*. It is through his mercy alone that we are not reduced to dust with the others, and that Heaven ceaselessly pours out upon us the torrents of its favors and its blessings. Our poor village continued to be afflicted until spring, and is almost entirely ruined. We are not surprised at this, for the greater part of them showed that their belief consisted only in fine words, and that in their hearts they have no other God than the belly, and the one who will promise them absolutely to restore them to health in their illnesses.

On the fourth of December,—having learned the news from *Ossosané* that the disease was spreading there, and that some of its people had recently died, the Father [112] Superior sent thither Father Charles Garnier and me. We made this journey joyously and with all the more confidence in God as I was convinced of my insufficient knowledge of the language. At our arrival we instructed and baptized a poor man who could not live through the night. We did not make a long sojourn there, as we had orders to be present at the Festival of the Conception of our Lady; had it not been for that, we would not have readily left the sick, who were as many as fifty by actual