

ing to this ceremony, as those wooden masks and straw men had been hung over the cabins merely to terrify the disease and the demons, our host conjured them to keep a good watch; and, to render them more favorable, he threw a piece of tobacco into [183] the fire, in their honor. What extremes for reasonable men! All this made us resolve the next day to think seriously about our return,—seeing that among all these lawless acts our Holy mysteries could not be received and treated with the respect and reverence they deserved; and that we were often obliged to suffer many things, as much because we were powerless to prevent them, as that we were not yet capable of properly expressing our sentiments in regard to them. We made this decision all the more readily because there were at that time very few sick people.

We departed, therefore, on the 13th, and reached home very late at night, after considerable trouble,—for the paths were only about half a foot wide where the snow would sustain one, and if you turned ever so little to the right or to the left you were in it half way up your thighs.

*(Continued in Vol. xiv.)*