

days before,—while I was instructing her and having her perform some acts of faith and contrition, this good old woman began to talk and said to me, “My grandson, thou doest well; I like to hear what thou sayest.” But I did not think she was so near her death, for she hardly seemed to be sick. Father Pijart went every day to instruct the little children of her cabin. She was the first to ask him to exercise her in prayer to God, doing it with incomparable candor, and exhorting the others to listen carefully to the Father. This woman possessed a natural goodness and gentleness, [58] quite above the generality of Savages.

On the 11th, Father Isaac Jogues arrived, with the little boy who had afforded him excellent opportunities for exercising charity along the way. This child had been sick since the seventh day, and had entirely lost his appetite, which so greatly weakened him that at the end of a few days he had not strength enough to get out of the canoe, much less to walk the length of the rapids. The Savages at first spared him this trouble, carrying him two or three times, but they very soon became weary of this; the Father's charity led him to encumber himself with the child. This burden seemed to him very light, and he would have willingly carried him to the Hurons. But the same charity which had made him undertake what was almost beyond his strength, made him give it up, after having carried him over 4 or five rather long portages, fearing that he might lose him and be lost with him. He then arranged with a Savage to exchange him for a package of hatchets, which were really heavier. There are some passages where a fall would not be less than fatal and the Savages are