

to say with truth, "Thank God, in the place and in the condition in which I am, I have no other physician than his paternal providence; and of all the comforts an invalid may desire, I have, properly speaking, none except those which come to me directly from Heaven." The Father Superior did me the favor to give me the care of Father Jogues. I held this office from the year before, but without having had any practice, as God had preserved us all in good health. Yet, before long, I was not alone in this charge; for our cabin was soon afterwards changed into an infirmary, or rather into a hospital, there being as many nurses as there were well persons, and these were few for the number of patients. [61] On the same day, Mathurin, one of our domestics, arrived, after a great deal of trouble. Five days later, he became our third invalid; it was a relapse which prevented him for a whole month, with all his good will, from rendering us any service. He had been somewhat badly treated on the journey. A fever is a hard load to carry over the rapids. It was fortunate for him that he fell in with rather good-natured Savages, who, as soon as they perceived his indisposition, did not urge him to paddle. They even set him on shore many times; and, when they were encamped, they gave him the best treatment that they could. He had hard work to drag himself as far as the Bissiriniens, where he was left; his Savages made him understand by signs, as well as they could, that they considered him too weak to go farther, that there were still four or five rapids to pass, where he might have to remain. That answered very well, thus far; but they made a mistake in leaving him four of our packages,—a great hindrance to a sick