

scruples at the least thing. 6. He will sometimes continue in prayer for three-quarters of an hour, all the time on his knees, which is a very difficult position for a Savage. 7. Finally, it is wonderful how much strength God gives him to combat at every turn the great difficulties that the Devil continues to raise for him through the people of his Nation,—some by inviting him [46] to their infamous and superstitious feasts, others by openly ridiculing him. He said to us one day with his usual simplicity, “Yes, my Brothers, I am so determined to maintain even unto death the fidelity I have vowed to my God, that if any one wished to make me return to my former follies, he should sooner take away my life.” In short, his devotion may be summarized as a holy tenderness of heart that God gives him, for the great and loving respect that he shows to the holy Sacrament, for the honor he renders to his guardian Angel and his great Patron, and for commending to the holy Virgin his country and the souls of the faithful Departed.

At the beginning, only one thing caused him perplexity—that was our assertion that God was accustomed to try his most faithful servants through sufferings and tribulations. In fact, he said to us but recently, in speaking of the story of Job, that he had often said to God, “My God, I pray you, do not make a trial of my faith; you know my most secret thoughts, you know that it is in earnest I believe in you; alas! do not afflict me.” But that infinite goodness which from day to day overwhelms him with new graces, caused him, only a little later, to change his sentiments and his language.

I will finish this Chapter by saying that his constancy in goodness has made him and all his family