

never have seen the firmness thereof. I had to play a strange part; for, professing to render the Savages stationary, I had to send away those who presented themselves. "Go, my dear friends," I said to them; "withdraw, for otherwise the disease may slay you; the affection that I feel for you leads me to give you this advice; however, do not go very far away, so that we may have news of you." They promised to obey me in every particular, and thereupon they reëmbarked and went away, naming to me the place whither they would retire. This [84] done, I went to tell all the other Families settled near us that it would be advisable for them to go away for a while. I do not know what were the impulses of my soul; but I know well that God does not wish man's heart to become attached to anything whatsoever. Having therefore driven away, as it were, and banished for a while, these poor lambs, disconsolate indeed,—Father Vimont, who had come to see us at Sillery, and myself, with a young Savage, took our sick man in a canoe and carried him to the house of charity and mercy, that is, to the Hospital. As soon as he was placed there, I approached the bed on which François Xavier lay; and, finding him in a very pitiful condition, I covered his face with my handkerchief and leaned my head on the pillow, unable to speak to him.

Those who labor for the salvation of souls have as tender an affection for their Neophytes as mothers have for their children. This good and truly Christian Savage, turning towards me, said: "Nikanis, do not grieve; I die quite willingly. I do not fear death; I am weary of earth; I hope I shall go to Heaven." I leave you to imagine how these words