

quillity, advancing from day to day in the knowledge of God, and in the exercise of the virtues suited to their age, sickness and death came to trouble our joy. One of them wasted away for some time with a lingering illness; his companions at first felt an aversion for him, but as they had been taught that God took pleasure in acts of charity, they visited him, carried him food, and, as he could not offer a blessing before his meal on account of his weakness, they offered it for him; death finally removed him, on the fifth of March. To bury him, it was necessary to reach the ground through six feet of snow, so abundantly did it fall this year.

About six weeks or two months after his death, one of the prettiest and cleverest children of the same Seminary was attacked by a slow fever which has not yet left him; we see clearly that it will lead him to the grave as well as his companion. Some time afterward, the most accomplished one of all was taken from this world by a sort of pleurisy, and that in less than ten days. These casualties made us resolve to keep with us only the five [144] or six younger boys, who also have been attacked by catarrh and colds,—so difficult is it to make these poor Seminarists exist out of the homes or cabins of their kindred. The Devil sees clearly the fruit that may be expected from them, hence he employs all the resources of his malice to overthrow this holy enterprise; he will only lose therein his own labor.

Besides these children, we always help some Savages near our settlements. These poor people are truly an object of pity, and need to be powerfully aided. Charity has strong arms; I will say only two words to all those who exercise it: *Date, et dabitur*