

from their cabins at the appointed time, and sometimes when they had to traverse a considerable distance which lies between their Village and our dwelling,—naked, for the most part, as the hand, except a single skin that they wear upon their backs in the form of a mantle, and in the rigor of winter some skins around their feet and legs.

But above all [would one rejoice] to see them get upon their knees, which to them is a posture altogether strange and extraordinary, and offer their prayers aloud in the presence of the blessed Sacrament, and receive communion promiscuously with our French people. It must be confessed that the satisfaction is such that by it we are inwardly repaid a hundredfold, and more, and that we shall never have reason [48] for difficulty in seeing the promises of the Gospel fulfilled in this respect.

In winter, we are careful to have fireplaces full of burning coals in several parts of the Chapel, to provide against the discomforts that might arise from the cold and their nakedness. This so pleases them that some often remain, of their own free will, whole hours after the service, to converse about our mysteries, and to become better and better instructed.

The first occasion that presented itself after their baptisms to show their devotion was on Christmas night, part of which several spent in our cabin, others in the new Chapel, which proved to be in condition for use at this solemnity. Things were arranged with as much decoration and splendor as possible, to make them realize the importance of this day; and the affair succeeded so well that these poor people have often asked since then when that night would return,—or rather this kind of a beautiful day; for,