

It had snowed a good part of the day, and, if the night had been such a one as it seemed bound to be, the two Fathers possibly would not have come out of it more cheaply than did some of our Savages, who, [84] having likewise, some time later, gone astray in the woods during the night, were found dead the next day. The snow which had fallen did them more good than harm, for it served to appease their hunger, and above all their thirst, which, in their labor and anxiety as lost persons, gave them no little trouble; and, according to their story, snow is not so poor eating as one might imagine,—or, to put it better, necessity is a master cook.

Be that as it may, they reached home safe and sound towards four o'clock in the morning, and their bundle, that had been left near a brook, and contained a good part of the Chapel, was fortunately recovered the same day.

It pleased God to so arrange matters that they came across a cabin in the village of saint Michel, the most convenient that could be found for the use that was to be made of it. There was only a single fireplace or family, which was precisely the condition necessary to relieve them from care in regard to food; there was a little compartment suitable for erecting a Chapel, where Mass was said daily, as long [85] as they stayed there, which was for the space of thirty days.

At the very outset, they spoke in the assembly of the Captains, who were ten or twelve in number, to whom they declared their intention, namely, to give to them and to the entire village the knowledge of the one and only God, and of JESUS CHRIST, Our Lord and Redeemer. To make them understand