

give in to his misery; he has recourse to God, and,—dragging his miserable body on his elbows and on his knees (for he could not stand on his feet, nor lean on anything else), with his eyes all stopped up with sores,—he goes into the bushes and among the briars, to seek by feeling about whether he will not find some root or some fruit to satisfy his hunger, which oppresses him as much as and more than all his troubles together.

It must be that God was guiding him, for his hands so fortunately fell on what he sought, that in a little while he found a certain kind of currants,—enough to relieve his hunger to some extent. [21] Judge what this poor sick man's night was.

The next day, while he lay almost naked on the shore, some Huron canoes, which had perceived him from a distance, thinking that he was some dead body, drew near to make him out; but he, having risen a little at the noise, in order to cry them mercy, gave them so much horror that, not daring to approach nearer, they pitilessly left him, without lending him any assistance,—not even a handful of corn or meal. A little while after, some others passed, who finally having suffered themselves to be swayed by the gifts which he offered them, resolved to take charge of him: but alas, this joy was very brief;—hardly had they carried him about half a league when, unable to endure him longer, they put him ashore again with his clothing, and a bundle of about 50 or 60 pounds,—more faithful in that than the first ones, who carried off his presents.

So there was this poor fellow again abandoned to all these miseries, but worse than before,—for, his strength [22] being diminished for want of food, and