

the disease having increased, he found himself at last almost powerless to stir further. It was then that he had most to suffer, for a great storm of rain having come up, and he chancing to be lying between two rocks along which the waters from the hills and neighboring knolls poured down, he could not withdraw from them, and was constrained to crouch therein as long as the storm lasted. It was much worse at the return of fair weather: for then the gnats, coming in swarms, attached themselves to the matter which issued from his sores; whence there ensued a teeming nest of vermin and of worms, everywhere on his body.

For less than that, one dies; accordingly this good young man, altogether despairing of his life, now thought of nothing but Heaven. He looked at death with as peaceful a gaze as those do who contemplate their happiness.

He had charged himself, on leaving the Three Rivers, with a bundle which he was bringing to us, in which were several quite notable relics. That was the sole support which was left to him on earth: and at least, if unable [23] to come and die in our arms, he consoled himself that his body would rest in peace beside the relics of the Saints; but God willed to see him in a desolation more complete.

Those who had forsaken him told the other Hurons whom they met, the miserable condition of this poor fellow. Among those who heard these tidings was a certain barbarian with whom he had formerly made several journeys in the country, and who professed to love him. This man, who was going away on a rather long trade, leaves his course, moves straight to where the sick man was, to relieve him: