

narrow paths covered with snow, which, frequently disappearing, leave the traveler in doubt and uncertainty as to the ways, whence ensue quite common bewilderments.

But the culmination of these misfortunes is to have no hostelry to retreat to, and to be constrained to seek the cabin of some Savage who is willing to receive us,—where, usually, the greatest affection that has been shown us this year was in the way of continual reproaches for the ruin of the country, whereof we were held to be the cause. To have, for bed, the ground covered with a sorry piece of bark; for all food, a handful or two of parched corn, or of meal soaked in [40] water, which very often leaves our hunger quite undiminished; and after all that, not to dare to do any act,—not even the most holy ones,—which is not suspected and mistaken for enchantments,—is not that leading a life which has naught of sweetness except the Cross of Jesus Christ? If we would either kneel down, or say our Office by the light of five or six coals, those were precisely these acts of black magic by which we were causing them all to die. If we asked the name of some one, in order to write it in the register of our baptized ones, and not lose memory of it, it was (they said) that we might pierce him secretly, and afterward, tearing out this written name, cause the death, by this same act, of him or her who bore that name; in everything, we were criminals. Howbeit, it has pleased God to assist the workmen whom he employed, with extraordinary favors,—either by a temporary gift for the language, which several have experienced on occasion,—understanding and speaking above their range; or by the gift of healings, which