

The Nuns have exercised a most signal charity towards this living skeleton; he is one of those whom God has willed to save through the mercy that is exercised in their hospital.

“ I have seen in some of them,” continues the Mother, “ a great steadfastness at death, and a joy founded upon their hope of going to heaven. Among others, esperance Itauichpich greatly consoled us. When she first [155] entered our hospital, she had an eager desire to recover her health. She seemed very averse to dying; and yet, as soon as she was told that her sickness was mortal, that it was all over with her, she was not at all shocked; she begged that the Father be sent for, and, having confessed two or three times, in a little while she appeared as resolute and firm as a rock. She saw before her eyes four little children that she was leaving, very poor and very young, and her husband exceedingly disconsolate; and all this did not make her waver. The faith operates strongly in these new Christians. You would say that they are sure that, in leaving this life, they go straight to Paradise.

“ I have noticed a very great chastity in all the Savages that we have had in the hospital, especially in the Christian girls and women. When we said one day, to divert our patients, that we were going to the country of the Hurons to succor them, they told us that those peoples were very dissolute, and that we, who so loved purity, could not endure them; [156] in short, they prayed you Fathers to dissuade us from this plan, for the sake of our love of chastity. But when we told them that we had only said this in jest, they replied that we must confess, and that God forbade lying. This made us smile, and greatly