

One of our Fathers, who was listening to this prayer when the good man did not think he had any witness, assures me at the end of the letter which he wrote to me about it, that he has added nothing at all to it, and that indeed he has not been able to express in our French language the efficacy and the affection of the devotion, which appeared to him much greater in the Huron terms.

It pleased God to take this good Christian literally,—that one of his children which he cherished the most died, after almost unendurable pains; but no doubt God showed mercy to the son in order to recompense the holy wishes of the father. This young lad, after his baptism, had scarcely made any profession of [125] Christianity, his youth having carried him away into license.

One day, when the two Fathers who have charge of this mission returned to the said village, after some errands which they had despatched, it was told them that this young lad was dead. They straightway go into the cabin to console the father; they find the son still alive, and with his faculties complete, but approaching his end. They speak to him of Heaven; he listens very willingly: he accuses himself of his sins, and asks pardon of God; they give him absolution, and prepare him to die happily. Hardly had the Fathers returned to their cabin when some one came to bring them the certain news of his death.

This death resounded very loudly; it was everywhere said that God was forsaking his most faithful servants, that the Faith availed only to cause them to die, and that our desire to put them in Heaven as soon as possible caused us to hasten the days of those whom we believe to be the best prepared there-