

than Nature, and that the fires of a heart which loves God are more ardent than their great fields of ice and their deep snows are frigid.

The third thing which extremely edified this good Neophyte and his Countrymen was the devotion and the love of these new Christians. The Savages are not so much astonished to see the French inclined to virtue and to believe firmly in God,—they think that is secured to us even at our birth. But to see Savages who are like themselves,—accustomed to their own superstitions, and plunged into the vices of their own Nation,—come forth from Baptism every one pure and clean; embrace the faith, and publish it without fear; detest that which they have loved, and trample [85] under foot that which others adore,—that is what amazes them, and makes them say: “If those who are like us are content with one wife only, if they are firm and constant in their marriages, if they love those even who are not of their own Nation, if they pray to God, and if prayers do them no harm, why should we not imitate them?” Indeed, I have observed that one truly Christian Savage, who is zealous for the faith, accomplishes more among his people than do three Jesuits.