

palisade of the village, now on the shore of the lake,—who were unfolding certain books, whence issued sparks of fire which spread everywhere, and no doubt caused this pestilential disease.

Even in the cabin whither our two missionaries retreated, they are looked upon with an evil eye; night and day they are confronted with the rumors which are current about them. Every one, and especially a Megera who is the mistress of the house, treats them worse and worse, in order to oblige them to leave as soon as possible; their host is the only one who tolerates them, but he begs them, as a friend, to remain shut in and concealed, because of the dread which he feels, of some evil deed.

So great and sudden a change is not difficult to understand, if one will reflect [157] that the Savior of the world was blasphemed by all the Jews, and treated like a malefactor,—although a few days before they had received him in their city, and had acknowledged a part of his dignities.

Howbeit, it is a strange thing that even those who shortly before had received their cure from heaven, and who dared not deny it, grow cold in the Faith after all these intrigues of satan, and lose their ideas of God and of the obligations which they are under to his goodness. When one of our Fathers was one day reproaching with this the man who had so happily recovered sight by the virtue of holy water, this barbarian said to him: “But how am I so greatly obliged to him? what did it cost him to restore my sight? You used nothing but cold water: that is not a very difficult remedy to obtain.” “That, wretched man,” he says to him, “is why you ought to admire his power and love his goodness, which has rendered