

country. This news moved him at first, and, as if communing with himself, "Alas! my God," said he, "what can I find amiss in that which you have ordered for him?"

This is the condition of our little, growing Church, in which, if we do not see a great flock, at least we have the consolation of seeing the fear of God and the service of his Majesty honored. Above all, during Advent and Lent, we have not failed morning and evening, at the close of their prayers, to give them a little instruction in common, in order to establish in their minds and in their hearts the principles of the Christian life. Such fruit has followed therefrom as we could have desired.

We have visited all the other villages and hamlets appertaining to this Mission; we have returned from them with this thought, that sooner or later they will belong to us, or rather to God. I cannot pass over the peculiar obligation under which we are to God, for having preserved to us Father François le Mercier, who in one of his winter journeys, passing by necessity over a frozen lake, happened [32] to fall into the water, before he had perceived the weakness of the ice. A few Savages who were following him stopped suddenly, thinking more of the danger in which they were, than of helping the Father, which they saw not even the possibility of doing without putting themselves into a greater danger. The Father, stretching out his elbows, supported himself as well as was possible, from one cake of ice to another; and at length, having chanced on a place a little firmer than the rest, he ventured to make an effort, and lifted his leg upon the ice. The Savage least distant from him, seeing him in this condition,