

of their trade, went away; at other times, these madmen came to sit down by them, and asked to search their pouches, and, after snatching what they had in their hands, went away, feigning insanity. In a word, it seemed that the Fathers were like a ball with which the demons in the midst of this Barbarism were playing, but with a command from divine Providence, that nothing should be lacking to them,—for, really, in the four months that they were there, they lacked nothing that was necessary to life, neither lodging, nor sufficient food; and they were always in good health, amid hardships [75] and inconveniences which can be better imagined than explained. They showed their ingenuity by laying in a supply of bread, baked under the cinders after the manner of the country, and which they kept for thirty or forty days, that they might have it in case of necessity.

The Fathers in their journey passed through eighteen hamlets or villages, to all of which they gave a Christian name, which we shall use hereafter when occasion arises. They made a special stay at ten, where they gave instruction as often as they could find a hearing. They estimated about five hundred fires, and three thousand persons, that might be contained in these ten villages in which they set forth and published the Gospel; but it is very probable that the tones thereof have resounded throughout the country. However, in our reckoning we rely only upon the three thousand.

Now as the Fathers saw that these people were not sufficiently willing, and the reports and terrors were continually increasing more and more, they deemed it expedient to retrace their steps, and return to the