

this sacred sign meant; having had for answer that the God who had made heaven and earth, the animals, and all the grains, preserved those who honored him and who had recourse to him,—“I wish then to do the same,” responded he, “that he may preserve me and feed me.”

Another time several of these Barbarians [144] invited one of their prisoners to sing after the French fashion. “Then,” answered he, “be respectful; for the God of Heaven and of earth, whom we honor by our voices and by our Hymns, could punish you severely, if you should begin any scornful actions;” they all promised not to laugh, and to conduct themselves discreetly. The Frenchmen intoned the *Ave maris stella*, to which they listened, their heads being bowed with much modesty and respect; they declared afterward that the song had pleased them. The blessed Virgin who caused that Hymn to be sung every day at Kebec for the deliverance of the prisoners, foresaw from that time their liberty, and perhaps also asked from her son the conversion of these tribes, who will very soon hear the clarion of the Gospel, if old France love the New, as an elder sister should love the Younger.

Now, these two poor Frenchmen being distressed by the severity of the cold,—for, partly through force, and partly out of good will, they had given the best of their clothing to these Barbarians,—one of them, having a knowledge of the English language, [145] wrote to the Hollanders who have seized a part of Acadia, which belongs to the King, begging them to have pity upon their poverty; he used a beaver skin for paper, a little stick for a pen, and some rust or soot sticking to the bottom of a kettle,