

than the sky if I had not been with them. I urged them immediately to seek a place, however poor, where we might erect a cabin; having found one, they spread their sheets of bark on five or six poles, and well it was for them, and for me also," said the Father, "for we were beaten all night by the wind and the rain.

"The next day, not being able to approach the bark, I spent the great feast of our Lord in this house,—very poor in worldly goods, but richly provided with the blessings of heaven. The greater part of the Savages were Christians; I told them of the honor that was paid on that day to the Son of God, with pomp and magnificence, in the whole of Europe. Then I erected a little Altar that I might say holy Mass; they aided me with so much affection that I was greatly moved thereby; on seeing that the place where I should walk was very damp and muddy, they threw a robe upon the ground to serve me for a carpet. I stretched a little altar cloth across the cabin, to separate the [186] faithful from the unbelievers; then I began holy Mass, not without astonishment that the God of gods should stoop once more to a place more wretched than the stable of Bethlehem. These good people wished to confess and receive communion, but I put them off until the following Sunday. The Savages who had not been baptized maintained a profound silence during this divine Sacrifice, and they also had a great desire to be Christians.

"The tempest detained us two days and two nights, prisoners under this bark shelter, which was more open than a courtyard. As we were thinking of our departure, the sieur Marsolet,² who com-