

on the road to their salvation. The Neophytes, truly zealous, now relieve us of a portion of this [74] care. It is rather heartbreaking when we hear that souls, which were quite close to the gates of Paradise, have been cast down into the depths of the abyss. Many Savages, who had neglected or despised Baptism when they could have received it, have died very far away from us, with these regrets and complaints: "Oh that I were near the Fathers now! I would not die like a dog." The good Christians succor them in their extremity. Here are two examples.

A band of Savages had retired into the woods for the purpose of making canoes, when a poor woman suddenly falls into so complete prostration that she is regarded as if dead. The Christians at once order two young men to embark, and fetch a Father to baptize her. It was necessary to cross more than three leagues of water in the dead of night. The young men paddle with all their might; they arrive at St. Joseph, and urgently inquire for a Father. Father Buteux, who was then at that residence, takes a young Surgeon with him, and hastens after his prize. He reaches the Cabins about an hour or two after midnight, and finds the patient pulseless; [75] a great discharge of blood had deprived her of strength and of speech. The Surgeon gives her a cordial draught, and she recovers consciousness. The Father wishes to instruct her; but a Christian Savage, delighted to see her still alive, tells her of God with such eloquence that the Father takes pleasure in listening to him, and all the other Savages admire him. Dawn approaches, and the Father, seeing the patient out of danger, offers prayer to God in the Cabin, gives