

many endearments, to grant them that favor. I told them that they were too young, but they did not lose courage. When Reverend Father Vimont came to see them during Advent, to give them some instruction, they threw themselves at his feet, and prayed him to give Our Lord to them at least at Easter. The Father promised that they should enjoy that happiness if they studied very well. It is difficult to believe how this answer filled them with joy; but the fear that they might be unable properly to answer the questions that would be put to them, respecting that great mystery, induced them to come and see me every day, and to beg me, with clasped hands, to teach them. Finally their desire was fulfilled, and Our [115] Lord took possession of their hearts. The preparation and the fervor that they displayed in that divine action astonished as much as it edified us.

“It is our custom to withdraw into retirement at times, for eight or ten days, for the performance of spiritual exercises,—that is to say, for the purpose of conferring with God on the affairs of eternity; and when the Savages do not see us, they say that we are hiding ourselves. The Mothers having thus hidden themselves, the little Huron Seminarist wished also to hide. She withdrew into a small grove that lies within the cloister, made herself a kind of cabin, and passed the greater part of the day in praying to God. One of her companions found her there, and asked her what she was doing. ‘I am hiding,’ she said, ‘like the Mothers, to pray to God for myself, for you, for the French, and for the Savages.’ The other told her companions of this, and at once they all, except the two youngest, has-