

tened to make a little house, of leafy branches. They shut themselves up amidst this verdure, observed silence, and spent a good portion of their time in praying and in reciting the [116] Rosary, with as much devotion as mature and more aged persons show.

“ On Good Friday, when the little Seminarists saw the Mothers fasting more strictly than usual, they wished to imitate them. They, therefore, concealed the food that was given them; some contented themselves with a little bread boiled in pure water; the others ate only dry bread, without touching their evening collation. That was not all. They cast themselves at the feet of the Mother, and begged her to allow them to take the discipline. Having received permission to do so, these poor children manifested a fervor which indicated nothing of the moods of Barbarians. They are allowed to practice this devotion only very seldom and after importunities that are as agreeable to God as is the mortification itself.

“ On one occasion among others, while they were supplicating and pressing with extraordinary persistence to be allowed that favor, they were asked why they wished to take upon themselves such severe punishment. They replied that our Lord had first received it, and that his sufferings inspired them with the desire to [117] suffer for the salvation of their countrymen, and for their own sins. Such sentiments do not grow in nature's garden without being well watered by grace.”

I have already mentioned that two Hurons spent the winter in Kebec. One of the reasons that induced them to embrace the Faith of Jesus Christ was