

melted; where for your share, and for all viands, you have but a piece of smoked meat without bread, almost as hard as wood and as insipid as tow. After all, joy and content are found there; and these good people are a thousand times more easily satisfied than those dainty mouths that find more bitterness in the excess of a single grain of salt than they find pleasure in the delicacy of the choicest viands. Finally, one quits these hostelries without putting his hand into his purse; [53] everything there is as free as in the first age of the world.

But, to resume our route: when the Sun approaches its decline, they stop at the most suitable place they find for camping. When the spot is chosen, each one lays down his burden, or quits his sled, and kneeling down, they thank God for his goodness and for having preserved the whole band. Then they put up the buildings in which they are to dwell and which are completed in two or three hours.

The Father said holy Mass nearly every day; and, if any one foresaw that he would be unable to attend so early, he would come and ask him to delay it a little, assuring him that he would hasten his work.

The Festivals and Sundays were observed in a most holy manner. These good Neophytes confessed and received communion with matchless joy, admiring the excessive goodness of him who did not disdain the lowliness of their huts and cabins.

The Savages have a particular devotion for the night that was enlightened by the [54] birth of the Son of God. There was not one who refused to fast on the day that preceded it. They built a small Chapel of Cedar and fir branches in honor of the manger of the infant JESUS; they wished to perform