

some penance, to prepare themselves for better receiving him into their hearts on that holy day; and even those who were at a distance of more than two days' journey met at a given place to sing Hymns in honor of the newborn Child and to approach the table whereat it was his will to become the adorable food. Neither the inconvenience of the snow nor the severity of the cold could stifle the ardor of their devotion. That small Chapel seemed to them a little Paradise.

They begged the Father, for their consolation and instruction, to do in their flying Chapels all that we do in our permanent and stationary Churches, by giving them blessed ashes on the first day of Lent. Their hearts and mouths were filled with the most pious sentiments. They received the Rites with the utmost sincerity and the greatest simplicity, [55] like people who believe that every one feels the good effects thereof. They carried branches as palms of victory, full of joy for the triumphs of JESUS CHRIST at his entrance into the city of Jerusalem.

As they had seen the festival of the great saint Joseph, the patron of all New France, celebrated at Kebec with bonfires, they wished to pay him the same honor; cedar and other woods of all kinds could not fail them in these great forests.

Knowing that JESUS CHRIST had first given himself to man under the appearances of bread and wine, on the day that preceded his death, they manifested deep gratitude for his love; and, after returning to him a thousand thanks, they very humbly begged his pardon, all together, for not having paid him all the homage of respect and honor due to that adorable victim and to that divine Sacrifice.