

On Good Friday, they performed the most generous act that could be expected from a Savage. After having adored the Cross, which they laid upon a fine beaver robe, spread out like a carpet, [56] they remembered that the amiable Savior had prayed for those who had placed him on the Cross; and they said this short Prayer to him from the depth of their hearts, speaking of those who burn, roast, and eat them. "Lord, forgive those who pursue us with such fury, who put us to death so cruelly. Open their eyes, for they see not. Make them know and love you; and then, when they are your friends, they will be ours, and we shall all be your children." I have no doubt that these good sentiments contributed in a great measure toward obtaining the peace that they now enjoy. The winter passed in these innocent excursions and these pious exercises. As soon as the warmth of the Spring began to thaw the snow, they returned to the banks of the great river, where they had left their canoes and shallows. The first thing that they did, on issuing from the forest, was to frame a great Cross, as best they could. The Captains were the first to lend a hand, and they wished to carry it themselves on their shoulders to a very conspicuous place, [57] where they planted it. As soon as it was erected, they adored in that sacred wood him who had sanctified it by his death, and offered it to his Father in thanksgiving for having preserved them all throughout the winter. They went now and then to kneel before that divine standard, and to say their simple prayers in such words as these: "Lord, we wish to show you by this rood, which we have erected in your honor, that you are the Master of these great forests; that you reign