

over sea and land, through the merits of your Cross; and that by your sufferings you have paid our debts, and wiped out our sins."

Such matters give great consolation in the midst of Barbarism, but assuredly such pleasures of the spirit must be purchased at the cost of much bodily fatigue. One must sleep on the bare ground covered with a few fir branches, having between one's head and the snow merely a piece of bark of the thickness of a teston; live as much among the dogs as with men, for everything is promiscuous in their cabins; fast sometimes on Sundays more rigorously than on good Friday; have no other beverage [58] than that which is common to the most neglected creatures on earth; eat, as a rule, meats which stave off death rather than sustain life; have no other cook but uncleanness, the inseparable companion of their extreme poverty; endure the jests and the scorn of those who are not baptized, and of the children, who—because they do not see in a Frenchman any of the perfections of a Savage, and cannot recognize the virtues of a generous Christian—despise to the last degree those who are not good beasts of burden. Philosophy and Theology have no currency amid these great trees; legs like those of the deer, and strength like that of oxen, hold the first rank among these peoples.

All this, with some Baptisms which the Father administered in the midst of the woods, seasoned with the piety of the good Neophytes, of which I have spoken, gave some satisfaction to a man who loves sufferings. But smoke was his greatest Cross. That half Element, or that imperfect mixture, which retains the heat of the fire and the malignancy of