

tainted air, so completely dried up the eyes of the poor Father that he became [59] blind. At the beginning, he could see objects only confusedly, without being able to distinguish anything in detail,—so that, when he wished to go out of the Cabin, he sometimes walked through the fire, which is placed in the very center of these dens. At other times, he stumbled over the feet of some, exciting merriment in those even who had compassion on him. Finally, he lost his sight completely, so that he could no longer guide his steps. The Savages were surprised at this accident when they saw that, in addition to the loss of his sight, he suffered such pain that his strength failed him. They consulted among themselves whether they should not wrap him up like a parcel, tie him on their sleds, and haul him like the rest of their baggage. When the Father heard them, he began to laugh, and assured them that, if they would give him a guide, he had still enough strength to follow them. They gave him a child, whom the poor Father obeyed as a pupil does his teacher. That is not all. They held an assembly concerning his disease, the result of which was that, if he would submit to their remedies, he might be cured. The good Father, breathing only renunciation, [60] in truth blindly obeyed them. Thereupon a woman who was selected to effect the cure, rose from her place and said to him: “Go out of the Cabin, my Father; open thine eyes, and look at the Sky.” The poor blind man obeyed without a word. When he had assumed the attitude required, this fine oculist armed with a bit of knife blade, or of rusty iron, scraped his eyes till a little humor flowed from them. Never had the poor Father suffered so much. The hand of the