

rendering the truths of our Faith more credible and more adorable to them. In a word, they admit that it must, beyond a doubt, be true that Heaven's pleasures surpass all those of earth, since solely the hope of gaining it makes those who live in that Faith despise all that is pleasant in life, and sweetens for them the bitterness both of life and of death.

After this, are we not right in raising our hopes more than ever, and [157] in believing that that all-powerful hand, which out of nothing produced these beginnings, will continue its work; that the Holy Ghost will bless this propitious seed; and that, after having himself inspired dispositions so advantageous to what we most hope for, he will make it fruitful and turn an unfertile soil and an infidel world into a land of holiness and into a Christian world?

If we had but the Hurons to convert, it might even be thought, perhaps, that from ten to twenty thousand souls are not so great a conquest that one should expose himself to so many hazards and encounter so many dangers, to win them to God. But we are only at the entrance of a land which on the side of the West, as far as China, is full of Nations more populous than the Hurons; toward the South, we see other Peoples beyond number, to whom we can have access only by means of this door at which we now stand. Therefore, since God has called us the first to cultivate this vine for him, should we not be faithful to him with that patience that he recommends to his Apostles,—*Fructum afferet in patientia*, waiting until he himself [158] gathers the fruits thereof at such time and at such moment as will please him? If we have not that consolation in this life, it will be a sufficient reward for us to have devoted our efforts