

these Countries, and if he has obtained any good in these beginnings of the conversion of these Peoples, it must be admitted that, after [181] God, all is due to the labors of our Fathers, of which Our Lord has chosen that I should be a witness. I have seen the fervor of their zeal, their indomitable courage, their patience in enduring everything, their activity in performing all duties, their humility in a life truly hidden in an unknown world,—persons moreover, for the most part, who are not wanting in qualities that would have rendered them commendable in France. When I see that they embrace the Cross with pleasure, sufferings with joy, and scorn with love; that they each day carry their souls in their hands, being continually exposed to a thousand dangers of death, and that perhaps the majority of them are destined to die in the midst of the fires and flames of a cruel enemy, who ravages these Countries from day to day; when I see that these dangers animate their courage rather than depress it in the least:—the thought frequently comes to my mind that God willed that so strong, so constant, and so vigorous a virtue should supply the absence of miracles, which it seems that his divine Providence does not consent to employ in these latter ages, to further the conversion of these pagan lands.

[182] But the number of these laborers is too small for so many people; we need help in this more than in anything else; we ask assistance, and we hope that Old France will not deny it to New France. It is true that dangers are to be dreaded, and that whoever comes to us must have left behind him in France all love of life, to abandon himself without reserve to whatever can cause most horror to nature. But