

these relapse, in consequence; but most remain true to their profession. One man, assailed by sensual temptations, rolls his naked body in the snow until "those infernal flames are entirely quenched;" others, "in order to stifle that same fire of hell," apply burning coals to their bodies, asking themselves, "How couldst thou, wretched man, bear an eternal fire, if thou canst not accustom thyself to this?" They find in prayer their chief support in these trials; one utters an ejaculatory prayer two hundred times in a single night, while others "travel alone and by unfrequented routes, in order to converse with God." "These good people imagine that, in France, every one breathes nothing but holiness; that the conversation of companies is only of God; that vice keeps itself concealed there and would not dare to appear." The Christians hold debates with the infidels, and often make sharp retorts to the latter; indeed, the pagans are "astonished to see that many who previously seemed to them quite ordinary minds, appear wholly changed when they have become Christians."

Father Bressani at last reaches Huronia, having been captured by the Iroquois when on his way thither in 1644, but afterward escaping and being sent back to Europe by the Dutch. He soon returns, however, to resume his missionary labors; and his mutilated hands bear eloquent testimony to the truths that he preaches.

Ragueneau recounts many expressions of devotion, resignation, and penitence, uttered by these so recently savage neophytes. He says: "Tears are so rare in these countries, with respect to what concerns men, that I do not remember, in almost nine years that I have lived among the Savages, to have