

thee. Begin to-day to acknowledge his power; and, if thou desire that he shall forever show thee mercy, follow me in the faith, and have thyself instructed [110] as soon as we shall have arrived." They betake themselves to prayers; they resume their load, and pursue their way: and this cure, so extraordinary, was sealed with the mark of those which one must attribute to God alone,—bringing back to our Fathers a good catechumen instead of a mischievous infidel.

But the fervor of the zeal which animated the Church of the Nipissiriniens wintering in this same place appears to me a not less perceptible effect of the abundant graces of the Holy Ghost upon this Mission, which has taken him especially for its protector, and which bears his name.

All the Demons and all Hell had, it would seem, unchained themselves against it: the infidels, and all the relatives of the Christians, were opposing themselves to their faith with so much stubbornness that one day these, seeing themselves all together, equally weary of so many attacks, seemed to lose heart and to succumb within these difficulties. Their profound silence at everything which our Fathers could say to encourage them, their dejected faces, and their sighs full of languor, which were their whole response, showed [111] sufficiently the violence of the temptation, and the little resolution which remained to them in order to sustain the rest of the storm, which was continually increasing. Our fathers, seeing that their words enter not into the depth of the soul, have recourse to prayer and to the assistance of Heaven. After a long silence on both sides, lo, all at once these Christians are enlightened, all together, with a light which comes down