

have promptly set up for him a cabin in our little courtyard, with a fire kept up. Having observed this, his master, who was on the point of going away, tells us in the presence of several Savages that he could not take his slave at the same time with himself, without placing him in obvious danger of dying in his shallop; that he gave him to us, and conveyed to us all the right that he [122] had over him; that we should take care of him, and that he should always be ours, if he returned to health. This occurred toward the end of the month of October; and, three months having elapsed, he recovered a health so perfect that, having been lent to one of our Christian families, he killed, toward the end of the winter, more than a dozen elks.

The care that we took of this poor forsaken man gave occasion to some Savages to set down, within a stone's throw from our house, two very old and helpless women, whom we had baptized shortly before,—one of whom saw even the third generation, and if her sight were not notably diminishing every day, together with her mind, she would see in a little time even the fourth. The other was not so aged, but was at least as helpless, by reason of ulcers which were eating away one of her legs; both were powerless to walk. We were not willing to let them die of misery before our eyes, or urge that they be embarked again, lest the refusal to assist them, that we might have made, should give occasion to those barbarians rather to deal them a blow of the hatchet on the head, than [123] to take the trouble of dragging them over the snow throughout the winter. A cabin is therefore set up for them; then we provide them with food and some other conveniences.