

houses somewhat isolated from the fort. It is estimated that they carried off what would load more than fifteen men; for several Frenchmen had reserved in that place the greater part of their little property. At the end of Mass, they found themselves stripped of clothing, blankets, powder, lead, and arquebuses, and of other like things,—those robbers having left them nothing save what they could not carry away. The resignation and patience of those afflicted was excellent, and the charity of the other French was delightful. Some were praising God in their loss, and the others were exalting him by their charities; a certain man, who had only two coats, very gladly gave one of them in alms. Another, having learned this news, had a sledge laden with linen and clothing suitable for men and for women, and went in person to offer this assistance, along with his wife,—excusing himself to those poor afflicted people, for having offered them so little. “Never,” says a Father of our [11] Society who chanced to be present, “did I better conceive the fervor and charity of the Christians of the primitive Church, than on this occasion, when each one was striving to emulate the other.” Those thieves, having placed their booty in safety, divided themselves into two bands in order to go and find the Algonquins who were hunting,—some on the South side, others on the North side, of the great River. As they had learned from their captives the places whither those poor people had gone, they easily found their tracks, marked upon the snow. Those who proceeded to the North by their trail came to their cabins; but, all the men being at the chase, they encountered only women and children. Having seized persons and baggage, without