

her. That child, aged perhaps twelve years, had herself twice carried to the Chapel during the height of her sickness, in order to confess,—which she did with so much intelligence, judgment, and candor, that the Father was quite charmed therewith, admiring the effects of grace in these new plants. They gave her the most honorable obsequies they could; her mother laid her out with her Crucifix, which she placed on her heart in token of the love that she had borne for Jesus Christ her Savior.

It is true that the Faith of these new Churches is not yet severely tried by fire and sword; it has nevertheless its Tyrants,—these are the Epidemics, the frequent deaths, the wars, the massacres; and then the calumnies of the Pagans and of the sorcerers, or Savage Physicians. [220 i.e., 218] Indeed, one might almost say among these peoples, that to wish to be a Christian, and to wish to shorten one's life, are the same thing. The tribes of the North, which last year manifested so much fire for the Faith, have been assailed by those Tyrants; the Demon has shaken them through that temptation.

Hardly had they left Tadoussac,—where they had listened with love to the Christian truths, and presented their children for Baptism,—when death fell upon those little innocents, and disease upon a great part of their parents; this dealing of God astonishes us and makes us see that Crosses are, so to say, the only entrance to Paradise. There is no human eloquence which can persuade a people to embrace a Religion which seems to have for companions only pestilence, war, and famine. It is God alone who causes the Faith to germinate, who preserves it, and who vivifies. Men, in truth, are the instruments of