

the intercourse and friendship which they have among themselves. We paddled for some time on this lake, and finally we arrived at the place where were the Savages of the Porcupine nation. These good people, having perceived us, left their cabins, in order to see the first Frenchman who has ever set foot in their land. They were astonished at my undertaking, not believing that I would ever have had the courage to surmount so many difficulties for love of them. They received me in their cabins as a man who had come from Heaven; one gave me a little piece of fish dried in the smoke; another, a little smoked meat. The Captain made me a gift of a *Castipitagan* of Beaver,—that is to say, a skin of that animal, open only at the neck, so that one might say that the Beaver is quite entire. ‘That,’ he said to me, ‘my Father, is to soothe the fatigues of thy journey; we cannot express to thee [227] the joy that we have at thy coming. One thing saddens us,—thou comest at a poor season; we have no nets for catching fish, and the waters are too deep for taking the Beaver.’ There must be no mention, in that country, of bread or wine, or of a bed or a house.”

The Father remained three days with them, receiving the confessions of the Christians, consoling the sick, and preparing the old men for baptism for the next Summer,—assuring them that, if they were not brought to Tadoussac, he would come to find them even in their cabins, which gladdened them to the last degree. “We will make for you,” they said to him, “a little Church or house of prayers, in which to celebrate Mass, and to administer to us the Sacraments.” This Church will be built in two hours;