

“ We never saw so much terror,” say the Fathers who ran to that cabin. “ That wretch was loudly preaching the Justice of God, which he had despised; his goodness had disquieted this man some years before, through a very remarkable threat. It was at Richelieu, where this treacherous fellow — having promised that he would declare, at a public feast, that he wished to become converted — loudly denounced the Faith. At that very time, he was suddenly seized by a malignant disease, insomuch that he sent for a Father of our society, — [236] not to give himself up to God, but to have him understand that, if he died of that madness, he would not die all alone, for he believed that he had been prostrated by the prayers or spells of the Father. This poor soul became softened, little by little, through the words of him who had never procured for him anything but life. Finally, having come to his senses, he offered his prayer to our Lord with the Father, promising to have himself instructed. Strange to say, his malady, which had come in a moment, disappeared in an instant. He listened for some time to the Doctrine of Jesus Christ; but finally, having despised it with passion, he has been punished with a great Justice.”

This thunderbolt, while killing one man, raised several to life; the good Christians gave a thousand blessings to God, the lukewarm ones became warm, the Apostates became reconciled to the Church; and the Pagans, honoring Jesus Christ, asked his holy Baptism. No one dared longer open his lips against the Faith; it was now spoken of only with a dread and respect that altogether pleased us.

Simon Pieskaret, who was a Christian only in