

fashion. He who received it said to the others: "Let us thank God for having produced this corn, and for having made the Father willing to give us some." Thereupon they said a short prayer, which they pronounced aloud in a voice and with an accent full of modesty and devotion.

While some were preparing the feast, the others erected their houses or cabins; and in three or four hours they were all lodged, and the banquet was all prepared and finished.

When this was done, each one came to give an account of his conscience. I know not whether in Monasteries of the strictest discipline there are many persons more sincere and more candid than those good people, who have dealings only with God, and with the animals of their great forests. The innocence that one reads upon [116] their countenances and observes in their actions, causes joy or confusion to those who have a knowledge of it.

The Father, in conversing with them, observed three things which afford a striking proof of their devotion and of the vigor of their faith. Not one of them, in the course of eight or nine months, had lost his rosary, although they had wandered in various places as fishermen and hunters who are in perpetual motion; and although, moreover,—since they have no attachment for anything here below,—they generally forget some article of their baggage wherever they encamp. I can say, further, that the mothers requested rosaries for their little children, and hung them around their necks like a Relic, making them kiss them and reciting the prayer from time to time for those little innocents, so that they might not be deprived of the blessing attached to it.