

the number of these good Neophytes. Their very notable change has given astonishment to our French, who were not soon expecting so powerful an impulse from the hand of God.

Afflictions, nevertheless, have their good effects; they have brought to Jesus Christ the head of one of those families. He had listened to the voice of the Fathers who publish Christ's Doctrine, but he could not decide to embrace it. Finally, crosses carried the day, notwithstanding his resistance; and he spoke one day, in the presence of the Fathers, as follows: [268] "Some years ago, a contagious disease afflicting our poor country, I was stricken with it, along with several others who died from it. Seeing myself in danger, I had recourse to God; I entreated him with all my heart to restore me my life, firmly resolving to seek my baptism. He cured me, but soon after I forgot him; not so did he forget me, for, in order to arouse me, he placed me in another danger. As I was pursuing an Elk, that great animal, feeling himself struck by my javelin, which I hurled at him, turned upon me so suddenly that I could not avoid his rage. Having given me a sharp blow with one of his forefeet, he prostrated me, and left me for dead; my companions coming up, much astonished, deplored my misery. Upon regaining my senses, I again had recourse to him who had already cured me; and again he revived me, contrary to the expectations of those who thought only of my tomb. I returned to my first resolutions; but virtue seeming too difficult to me, and obedience to God's commandments rather hard, I did not keep them, and my health caused me to lose the thoughts of baptism. But at last I have not been able to resist the most