

communion, with much piety and without haste; and then, with the Father's permission, they resume their course. They had not gone far when they again discovered the trail of that Bear; they follow it, and encounter the animal, which they kill, and use as food in their family,—[272] becoming more and more confirmed in the fatherly providence of their Savior Jesus, for so they call him.

A young Christian, seeing himself unsuccessful in the chase, communes with himself. "Whence comes to me," he said within his heart, "this ill fortune? Surely, I have offended God." He examines himself, goes to find the Fathers at their residence, twenty leagues from his cabin, and confesses, with much sorrow for his transgressions. He returns to his abode, and meets on the way three Elks; he pursues them, overtakes them, and puts them to death,—blessing God for having opened his eyes through so kindly a check.

A Catechumen, having received a very sharp affront from one of his fellow-countrymen, nursed I know not what rancor in his heart, seeking only an opportunity for revenge; and, as he was a man of importance, he did not lack firebrands, and people who offered him their service against his enemy. He revealed something of this to the Father who instructed him; the Father,—availing himself of those words in the *Pater*, "Forgive us our offenses, as we forgive those who have offended us,"—seriously warned him that Jesus forbade revenge, [273] and severely punished those who would not forgive; and that, if he aspired to baptism, he must regard his enemy as his brother. This man, admiring the beauty of that Doctrine, received and practiced it;