

them. But, after all, to whatever place we go, we see there nothing but crosses, present miseries, and fears of a greater evil,—death being, for most, the least of the evils that can befall them.

The hopes of Paradise which the Faith furnishes to the Christians are the only consolation which sustains them at this critical time, and which makes them more than ever esteem the advantages of the blessing which they possess, which cannot be snatched from them, either by the cruelties of the Iroquois or by the [88] prostration of a famine which continually pursues them in their flight, and from which they cannot escape.

We have, nevertheless, tried to assist, out of our own poverty, a part of these poor Christians; and since those public miseries, which began not a year ago, we have received in the hospice of this House of Sainte Marie more than six thousand, by actual count; and every day the number increases, as well as their miseries. May God be blessed forever. Whatever befalls, it must be enough for us that he derive his glory from it; and if it please him to augment the faith of these peoples by multiplying his crosses both upon them and upon us, our hearts are prepared for it, and we shall embrace them with joy; and we will say to him upon the mountain of Calvary, with as good heart as if he had transported us upon the mountain of his glory, *Bonum est nos hic esse.*

I speak in this way because I fear lest too much fear be felt for us. *Æstimati sumus sicut oves occisionis, sed in his omnibus superamus, propter eum qui dilexit nos.* From the birth of Christianity, and since Jesus Christ redeemed the world only through his blood