

then they will be able again to find the way to Kebec, not only by the great River of St. Lawrence,—which perhaps will always be too much infested with the Iroquois Enemies,—but by sequestered routes, over which they can make this voyage with more security.

That Island of Sainte Marie abounds in fish; and the lands there, according to the report made to us about them, are good for cultivation. We will gladly put our hands to the plough, in order to live there by the sweat of our brows and by our own labor, if provisions fail us otherwise,—for hitherto it was the Huron villages which furnished us their [94] Indian corn, which has been the bulk and almost the total of our food. We do not esteem this occupation unworthy of our cares; and,—if it were necessary for us to become slaves of our enemies themselves, that we might find means to preserve, during the captivity, the Faith of these Churches which God has raised up in the midst of barbarism; and to announce, to all the Peoples which remain to be converted in these regions, the name of God, which they have not yet adored,—gladly would we abandon both our liberty and our lives to the cruelty of the Iroquois, and we would go to die in the midst of their flames and fires.

We know not what God reserves for us, and whether a stake and the flames will not perhaps be our portion, as well as that of our Brethren who have died here within so few days for the cause of God. Whatever may befall us, we shall be too happy to have spent our lives in his service, since he deserves that all men sacrifice themselves for his glory; and that they have not a single moment of life except for