

and exceedingly bitter roots seem to them a dish more delicious than the daintiest morsels of Europe. Those who have never tasted God without any creature comforts know not how sweet he is, taken all alone, so to speak. *Non ex solo pane vivit homo.*

At all events, these hardships cannot but seem all the more acceptable to us, the more abundantly they give us what we have come to seek in this remote corner of the world. Many a time have the Savages reproached us with the assertion that the faith was the sole cause of their calamities. That groundless belief has, it is true, caused us much suffering, and it aroused many of these barbarians to hostilities against the Fathers who were recently murdered; and yet we see plainly that the Cross, which caused the death of the Son of God, gives life to these people, and that persecutions beget faith. From the death of Father Antoine Daniel, which occurred July fourth of last year, sixteen hundred and forty-eight, up to that of Father Jean de Brebeuf and of Father Gabriel Lallemant, who were burned and eaten on the 16th and 17th of the month of March in the present year, 1649, we [108] baptized more than thirteen hundred persons; and, from the latter murders up to the month of August, we baptized more than fourteen hundred. Thus the Christian Church was increased by more than two thousand seven hundred souls in thirteen months, without counting those baptized at the Breach [i.e., the storming of the Huron villages], and those who were made Christians in other places. So true are those words, *Sanguis Martyrum semen est Christianorum*—"The blood of the Martyrs," if they may be so named, "is the seed and germ of Christians."