

I nearly forgot to tell you that, among Father Gabriel Lallemant's manuscripts, was found a paper from which we learned that, before coming to New France, he had devoted and consecrated himself to Our Lord for the purpose of receiving from his hand a violent death, either in exposing himself among the plague-stricken in Old France, or in seeking to save the Savages in the New,—with the added clause that he would esteem it a favor to be allowed to die for his Lord's glory in the flower of his age. That favor was granted to him richly.

In conclusion, experience taught us long ago that the [109] blessings which have come to us from the Cross of Jesus Christ are much more effectively received and communicated by crosses and sufferings than by prosperity. That is what consoles us amid persecution and want. Do not, however, cease to render us all the succor in your power, as it is not God's will that we should labor entirely alone in performing his work; many holy Souls are to share that honor. Saint Paul says that he is dead, and yet alive; thus it is that God treats this new Church, for which there is not one among us who does not wish to give his life and shed his blood.

*Since we have inserted a part of a letter in this second edition, I believe it will not be out of place to add a very remarkable incident,—or rather, a miracle wrought by divine Providence on the crew of a Vessel which set sail this last Spring for New France.* While this vessel was sailing on the open sea,—at no great distance from the great bank, where the cod-fishery is carried on,—the mainmast broke its step, or came out of it, and pierced the Ship's bottom, so [110] that a flood of water rushed in. The crew, composed of about