

we had was the produce of Huron industry in times of prosperity. *Unde exeunt flumina revertuntur*. It was for them, as for ourselves, that God had provided, in due season, this manna from Heaven,—for so I term what was the greatest wealth we possessed, which, in France, I would have called great poverty and misery. Nature contents herself with little; and, whencesoever gratifications are excluded, great cares also are banished, and men are relieved from many strong desires,—little in keeping with a life which, after all, [21] cannot be immortal.

Many persons have begged us to acquaint them with the order that is followed in the instruction of our Savages, and the course of our occupations during the day. As these employments make no display, and have no spectators, save those whom people are wont to term the offscourings of the earth, or the refuse of the world, the reply that I make to this inquiry can contain in it nothing remarkable. Those, however, who do not regard as trifles things that concern the salvation of souls, since they wish me to go into particulars,—and since it is for them, and persons like them, that I am writing,—let them know that, having reserved to ourselves two or three hours of the night for intercourse with God, before occupying ourselves with our fellow-creatures, at daylight the Christians were wont to assemble in the Church, where we reserved for them a few Masses. The prayers were said aloud, for the reason that, otherwise, many who were newly converted to the faith would not be able to learn them so readily. One of our Fathers presided at this devotion, and all the Savages followed him,—repeating, without [22] haste, the same words. The prayer ended, we gave