

these were very much enhanced when, ten years after that first separation, it became necessary to reconcile the father to a second, of a still more painful kind. This was his departure from France, to go into these Missions at the end of the world,—our Superiors having expressed their wish that his Father should yield consent to this, on account of peculiar obligations which our Society was under to him. His voyage was thus delayed, [36] an entire year; but this only served to fan the flame of his desires. Day and night he thought only of the conversion of the Savages, and of devoting to them his life, to its latest breath. It pleased God, from that time, to visit him with presentiments of the death which has befallen him,—but presentiments so inspiring, so peaceful, so delightful, that I can say that thenceforward he was dead to the world, and the world was to him as some lifeless carcass, for which one feels only horror and disgust. It required, then, a whole year to contend with all the struggles of nature in the mind of his good father, who could not hear of so cruel a separation. He employed therein friends, tears, prayers, and continual mortifications. At length, he succeeded in obtaining this great boon from Heaven, and with so much joy in his heart, that he looked upon that day as the happiest of his entire life.

While crossing the sea, he made some remarkable conversions on shipboard. Among others, he was informed that belonging to the crew was a man without conscience, without Religion, and without God. This man avoided every one, and all avoided him; [37] it was over ten years since he had confessed. The Father, carried away by his usual zeal, took in