

the ground; to harness himself to some [46] conveyance and drag it over the snows, like a horse at the plough; to care for the sick; to take charge of the cooking; or to go up and down in the forest in quest of some wild grapes, achieving ten or twelve leagues in finding his load,—to procure from it, after protracted labors, scarcely as much wine as would be needed for the celebration of a few Masses during the remainder of the year. In everything, he was indifferent to himself; and, to look at him, one would think that he had no inclination save for that which one saw him doing, and that that was the real occupation to which God had called him. “We shall do nothing,” he used to say, “for the salvation of souls, if God do not take sides with us. When it is he who sets us apart to this, by the direction of obedience, he binds himself to aid us in it; and, with him assisting us, we shall accomplish that which he expects of us. But, when it happens that we set our hearts on any particular employment, be it the holiest on earth, God does not bind himself to second our efforts, but leaves us to ourselves; and, of ourselves, what can we accomplish save a nothing, or the sin which lowers us beneath a nothing?”

He was not so wedded to the [47] conversion of the Hurons that his heart did not go out to Nations the most distant,—were it only to baptize the infants, “who,” he remarked, “are a certain gain for Heaven.” He often said to us that it would have pleased him to fall into the hands of the Iroquois, and be their captive; for, had they burned him alive, he would at least have had a chance of instructing them for as long a time as they prolonged his torments; and, if they had spared his life, that would have