

of the few Christians who remained: but if we could conduct them to the shelter of a French fort at Montreal, three Rivers, or Quebec, it would be, we thought, their only place of refuge; that there, the assistance which we could render them would be more effectual, and their faith would be more assured; and, in fine, that there God would be more glorified.

So generally was this the opinion of our Fathers, that I could not withstand it,—being moreover well assured that their hearts were so entirely wedded to the crosses and sufferings which they cherished in this blessed Mission, that nothing in the world would induce them to tear themselves from these, save the one [91] motive of the greater glory of God.

Meanwhile, the enemy continued their massacres without pause; the famine went on depopulating us: unless we hurried our retreat, we would save few Christians. The resolve being deliberately taken, its execution must be speedy, for fear that the Iroquois, hearing the news of it, might lay a snare for us, to bar our way.

It was not without tears that we left a country which possessed our hearts and engaged our hopes; and which, even now reddened with the glorious blood of our brethren, promised us a like happiness, and opened to us the way to Heaven, and the gate of Paradise. But yet! self must be forgotten, and God left for God's sake,—I mean, that he is worthy of being served for himself alone, without regard to our interests, were they the most Holy that we could have in the world.

Amid these regrets, the thought was consoling that we were to take away with us poor Christian