

that pressed hard upon them, and followed them everywhere.

I pray Our Lord to grant genuine feelings of a truly Christian charity to all those who have so rich an opportunity for putting it in practice. Until more can be done, we, as their Fathers, shall endeavor, at whatever cost, to provide for their necessities. On their journey down, we had fed them; in their own country, [101] God had given us the means of alleviating, in part, their miseries. For them we shed our blood, and spent our lives; could we after that, refuse to them, so far as might be in our power, that which was extraneous to us? They come every day to our house for the allowance that is served out to them; they themselves have built their cabins, and they will try by their labor to provide for themselves a part of their support. If, after having exhausted our resources, we find ourselves powerless to continue our charities, and behold them dying here of famine, close to our Frenchmen, there remains to us at least this consolation, that they will die Christians.

But the famine is not the evil which is most to be feared. There is the terror of the Iroquois, who are threatening all these regions; who everywhere make their barbarity felt; who are venting their rage, more and more fiercely, not only against the remnants of the Algonquins and Hurons, but are directing now the weight of their fury against our French settlements.

Only a very few days ago, [102] another band of some twenty-five or thirty Iroquois had the extreme audacity to attack, in open day, near Three Rivers, more than sixty of our people, who had gone in quest of them. These miscreants lay, waist-deep, in the