

which he seized in passing. Thus all three men continued to balance themselves, for more than a quarter of an hour, in constant danger of death, until another canoe of Frenchmen, following the first, had had time to approach the latter—not to venture joining it in those rapids, a course which would have exposed them to the same danger, but to render aid from a reasonable distance by throwing out a line, which one of the Father's Companions seized with his teeth, not daring to disengage his hands from the canoe.

They were thus delivered from this danger, and they attributed their miraculous rescue to the holy Family of JESUS, Mary, and Joseph, whom they had invoked most heartily, with a trust and presence of mind which could only come from Heaven. The Father has declared to us [63] that during the entire continuance of this disaster, while he was rolling over and over in these rapids, which threatened to engulf him, he made ready for death—with such peace of mind, and with prayers so suited to the occasion, that he would desire no different spiritual preparation, or feelings of greater love toward God, when he actually faced the hour of death, than those with which his whole heart was then filled.

Likewise the Father ascribes it to a very special Providence of God that, a quarter of an hour before this accident, one of his Companions had, without his knowledge, put into another canoe both his chapel and his manuscripts, which comprised his sole treasure. It was God's will by this means to leave them the consolation of being able to celebrate Mass for the rest of their journey; and it was [64] not his will to deprive the Father of his writings in