

no prospect of human succor. I prayed God to forgive them, but my prayer was unanswered; for they were subsequently wrecked, and the divine Majesty turned my abandonment on the part of men to the saving of my life.

“ Finding myself, then, entirely alone, forsaken in a strange land,—for the whole fleet was already a good distance away,—I had recourse to the blessed Virgin, in whose honor we had performed a novena which gained for us from that Mother of Mercy a very manifest daily protection. While I was praying to her I saw, quite [20] contrary to my hopes, some Canoes in which were three of our Frenchmen. I hailed them, and resuming our old Canoe, we proceeded to paddle with all our strength, in order to overtake the fleet. But we had long since lost sight of it, and knew not whither to go, it being very difficult to find a narrow detour which must be taken in order to gain the portage of Cat Rapids (as that part is called). We would have been lost had we missed this narrow channel; but it pleased God, owing to the blessed Virgin’s intercessions, to guide us directly, and almost without our realizing it, to this portage. Here, as I saw two more Canoes, belonging to the Savages, I leaped into the water, and hastened to intercept them by land on the other side of the portage, where [21] I found six Canoes. ‘ How is this?’ said I to them; ‘ do you thus forsake the French? Know you not that I hold Onnontio’s voice in my hands, and that I am to speak for him, through the presents he entrusted to me, to all your nations?’ These words forced them to give us aid, so that we joined the bulk of the fleet toward Noon.

“ Upon landing, I felt that I must, in that critical