

company to the two villages where he would like to pass the winter. "Thou canst not find them," was the Captain's reply; "they are far away from here, scattered in different places, hunting Bustards; and, besides, I have no one suited to bear thee company."

This impossibility of going on compelled the Father to halt; and after instructing and confessing these good Neophytes, to the number of twenty, he returned to the place where the French and Savages were waiting for news from him. It is a sweet consolation [69] to a man who knows what the saving of souls cost JESUS CHRIST, to find some to lead to Heaven; and, although there be but a single one in the midst of Barbarism to win for Paradise, it is a rich reward for all the fatigues that can be endured therein.

The descent of that great river is much easier and quicker than the ascent. The Father and his attendants arrived in one day at the place where they had left the Frenchmen and Savages, and in two more days they all together reached the camp where they had left the women and children.

There they halted for a day only; and God did not fail to afford the Father the consolation of baptizing a little new-born babe, and of receiving the confessions of [70] such as had not before confessed.

Departing thence, they reached the banks of the great river Saint Lawrence in a day and a half, but not without running great risks—the Father's canoe and that of some of the Savages nearly perishing in a second wreck, amid some dangerous rapids; but they were delivered by Heaven's special protection. Every day is one of grace and favor for such as give their lives to God.