

perfection; and at the close of the Mass, to which he had only been able to come with the aid of a guide and a staff, he returned without help from any one and without a staff, and has seen since [87] then more clearly than ever before.

In connection with this miracle I cannot omit what occurred, under the special protection of the Holy Family of JESUS, Mary, and Joseph, at fort Riche-lieu.

While work was in progress upon this fort, one of the Lieutenants was making the rounds, and had gone to visit a guard-house posted about two musket-shots distant, when he remembered that he had not on that evening attended the usual prayers, at which it was customary to recite in concert a short Office in honor of the Holy Family of JESUS, Mary, and Joseph. To discharge this little office of devotion toward that Holy Family, he withdrew aside in the woods, eight or ten steps from the sentinel, knelt among some shrubbery which concealed him, [88] and began this little Rosary with the utmost possible devotion. At that point, the soldier who was standing sentinel, seeing something in those bushes and fancying it was an Iroquois, fired at it at close range, and doubted not that he had killed his man. But as if the bullet had respected this servant of God, instead of piercing his head through and through, it did nothing but wound him slightly—it being God's will that the evident danger in which he had been should become known, in order to convey a realization of the powerful protection he had received from the Holy Family and, at the same time, of the succor which we all may expect on like occasions.