

As to other matters, the soldiers enjoyed constant good health as far as Tadoussac; but, by some unknown mishap, sickness broke out in one of the vessels and more than a hundred patients debarked, who were received by the Hospital Nuns with all conceivable kindness. Furthermore, as the ward for the sick, large as it is, could not hold them all, the nuns found themselves obliged to turn their Church into a second Hospital, JESUS CHRIST willingly yielding his place to his members.

These good Nuns, with so many patients on their hands,—[122] really in numbers beyond their strength, although not beyond their courage,—have, in the services rendered to those poor soldiers, manifested all the joy of hearts filled with God; their zeal and charity take no rest, day or night, in providing for all the needs of body and soul in their patients. Hence they nearly all fell ill themselves, some of them even to the point of death; but God mightily upheld them in a steadfastness and zeal which are the causes and the effects of true sanctity.

A number of Heretics being among these troops, efforts were exerted, and successfully, for their conversion. More than a score made abjuration of their heresy, with a deep sense of their indebtedness [123] to God, who caused them to find the road to Paradise by way of Canada.

One of them had begun to receive instruction while he was still on board ship; and as he had been sentenced to the hold for some offense, he was told that he would be set free if he would become converted. He made answer that such a motive to conversion was too base and selfish, and that he preferred to receive his punishment, since he had deserved it;