

so far as to stake his Beads, and lost them. He was so afflicted over it that he wept all night, and came the next day to Confess it, as a great fault. The french are wonderfully edified at seeing them, during mass, recite their Beads in alternate Choirs, and practice with exactness all other exercises of piety.

“God has taught me by experience, this year, that he has mercy on whomsoever it pleases him, and not on those to whom oftentimes men would much wish that he should extend it. He has many times permitted my labors to be of use to those of whom I was not thinking, and to prove useless to Those for [whom] whose salvation I had undertaken them. In the month of January, I was going toward the little lake of st. francois, two leagues from here. There I found a Christian savage dying, and prepared him for death. I had intended going to a place in which I afterward learned that a Young frenchman was at the point of death. But the news that was brought me, that the outagamis had returned from their hunting and that many of them were sick, made me retrace my steps. Meanwhile, the Young frenchman died in the Cabin of a savage, without Confession. Four months previously, he had passed by our Church; I had entreated him to come to confession, but he paid no Heed to me; and God, in consequence, did not choose that he should find again the opportunity which he had neglected. When I arrived at the outagamis, I found a poor savage who had languished for a long time, and whom I prepared by Baptism for death. In the same place, although I went every Day into the Cabins, a child died without baptism—dying suddenly, an hour after my leaving the Cabin in which it dwelt. These are the very heavy crosses with which God afflicts a poor missionary; but he Consoles him when it pleases him. A short time after this accident [had happened], some