

even, it would seem, revealed to him that he would soon receive the reward of his toil, for the Father wrote to me but a fortnight before his death in these terms: "Continue, my dear Father, to pray to God for me, and recommend me to the blessed Virgin; I hope soon to finish my course, but dread lest I finish it badly." He was surprised with twenty other Frenchmen, but it is not known how they were put to death. No premonitory sign of distrust on the part of the savages was noticed, nor were the victims tortured, as they are wont to be when prisoners are taken in battle. It is conjectured that they were surprised while asleep, and received their death-blows unawares. The heads of all were then severed from the bodies. It is said, however, that from the position in which the father's body was found, he must have been on his knees when he was decapitated; and one of the party who found him took possession of his calotte, remarking that, poor as he was, he would not part with it for a thousand escus. Although we entertain no doubts of his eternal happiness, we trust nevertheless that you will give him the benefit of the customary suffrages of the society. If you should yourself see the mother of the dear departed, or if you should write to her, I beg of you to make her understand the share I bear with her in this deep affliction, and that my own grief is too great to allow my offering her any consolation otherwise than by beseeching the God of all comfort to bestow on her the graces she stands in need of to bear the weight of so heavy a blow. Allow me, My Reverend Father, to close here, for my distress overwhelms me. I am, with