

who received absolution. At that moment a small passage or lane opened among the ice-floes. By the light of the fires that had been kindled upon the rocks, some of their kindred hurriedly threw themselves into a canoe, and through an admirable effect of providence, guided by cries uttered on both sides, they reached those who were about to be wrecked, and brought them in safety to *notre Dame de bon Desir*—where, full of joy and gratitude, they confessed themselves on the following day, and vowed never again to be so rash.

So fine an establishment should have lasted forever: religion, which supported the interests of the traders there, was beginning to flourish; we had leisure to instruct the children while their fathers were engaged in hunting; and we visited the latter in bad weather. Prayers were said publicly Every night, by torch-light, and instructions were given with hardly an interruption. On Sundays and holy days, when they had been unsuccessful on a certain number of days in the week, they were permitted as a compensation to go seal-hunting after mass and vespers, which were celebrated at an earlier hour on that account. But jealous people, weary of the missionary,—by whom they considered they were too closely watched, and whose presence they would have dreaded less had they had less occasion to reproach themselves,—abusing the credulity of their masters, frustrated the undertaking, which, as it promised an abundant harvest, gave umbrage to the enemy of the salvation of nations, who had not failed to cause much trouble. The pretext for having the missionary removed was, that but little oil had been obtained the previous year; and it was most falsely alleged