

his fort, the other would better capitulate, and procure as advantageous conditions as possible.

Monsieur de Montcalm did not think that he could put this letter to better use than to forward it as addressed, by the very messenger who had fallen living into our hands. He received from the English Officer thanks, accompanied by the modest request that he would continue to him for a long time the same civilities. Such a compliment either partook of the nature of trifling, or it promised a long resistance. The actual state of the fort did not indicate this: part of its batteries dismounted and out of service, through the success of our own; the fear prevalent among the besieged, who were now retained as soldiers only by means of a liberal supply of rum; and, lastly, the frequent desertions,—all these tokens announced its approaching fall. Such, at least, was the general opinion of the deserters, the number of whom would have been very much greater than it was if the savage troops had not multiplied the dangers of desertion.

Among those who came to surrender to us, there was one, the subject of a neighboring Republic which is our faithful ally; I enjoyed the sweet consolation of preparing the way for his speedy reconciliation to the Church. I went to visit him in the hospital, where his wounds detained him. At the very beginning of the conversation, I understood that it was not difficult to make a man of good sense approve of the dogmas of the true Religion, when the heart is in the condition of being no longer alive to the deceitful charms of human passions.

I had hardly returned from this trip, which had cost me a walk of three leagues,—the fatigue of which