

intent—we straightway see whirlwinds of flame rolling through the forests, and pouncing upon these dwarf woods with such avidity that, on one occasion among others, we could not prevent them from assailing one of our Canoes which, being suddenly overtaken by them, made us think we were going to be wrecked in the fire.

One thing that is very remarkable [92] is, that to these excesses of heat succeed cold spells of such intensity that snowshoes are used for walking on the snow as late as the month of June; and, to give no farther instances, we have noted that violets do not appear here until five months later than in France.

This country, although so ill-favored by nature, nevertheless has its inhabitants—who, having as well as we a share in the Redemption of Jesus Christ, fully deserve that we should secure it for them, in order to enable them to enjoy eternal rest after the manifold hardships amid which they drag out their wretched lives.

Furthermore, we have seen people from eight or ten nations, some of whom had never beheld a Frenchman or heard [93] of God; others, who had been baptized formerly at Tadoussac or at Lake St. John, had been for many years sighing for the return of their Pastors. We have, then, the consolation of having preached the Gospel for the first time to various nations, many of whose children have been baptized, many adults instructed, and many penitent souls reconciled through the Sacrament of Confession; while all that poor wandering Church has been strongly encouraged to persevere in the Faith. All this has greatly rejoiced, among others, a poor young man who is only waiting for death, having one of