

we hope that the wind
 y the cold became more
 and we had no alternative
 been thrown overboard,
 sions. We made cabins
 ranches; the captain and
 r of building them, so that
 comfortable. The sailors
 s, and, to hold the provi-
 which no one could enter
 This was a necessary pre-
 scription which might arise
 rge of it, and to prevent
 few days what was to sup-

niture of the apartments we
 iron pot in which we had
 a kettle; we had only one
 it, and our only preserva-
 our clothes and some half-
 of these failed us, we should

Without the pot, it would
 ing to sustain life; without
 od to keep up our fire, and
 s they were, there was no
 excessive cold which almost

me, was frightful, and noth-
 on me, dear brother, ere long
 horror augments at every
 o write you before I come to
 which I was reduced.

Our sole resource was to be able to prolong our
 existence till the close of April, and to wait for the ice
 to melt, in order to continue our voyage in the boat;
 chance alone could bring us relief in that spot; it was
 mere delusion to hope for any. In this crisis, it was
 necessary to examine soberly what provisions we had,
 and to regulate the distribution in such a way that they
 should last till that time. We accordingly regulated
 our food in the following manner: in the morning, we
 boiled in snow-water two pounds of flour, to have paste
 or gruel; in the evening, we cooked in the same way,
 about the same weight of meat; we were seventeen in
 number, and consequently each had about four ounces
 of food a day. There was no talk of bread or anything
 else. Once a week only we ate peas instead of meat,
 and although we had only a spoonful apiece, it was, in
 reality, our best meal. It was not enough to fix the
 quantity of food which we were to take; we had also to
 settle on our occupations. Leger, Basile and myself,
 undertook to cut the necessary wood, be the weather
 what it might; some others agreed to carry it in;
 others, to clear the snow, or rather to diminish its depth,
 on the road we had to take to the woods.

You will perhaps be surprised at my undertaking to
 cut wood, an exercise for which I was not apparently
 adapted, and even you may think, beyond my strength;
 in one sense, you are right; but when you reflect, that
 violent exercise opens the pores, and gives vent to many
 humors, that it would be dangerous to leave festering
 in the blood, you will easily understand that I owe my
 preservation to this exercise. I always had foresight
 to tire myself extremely whenever I felt heavy or