

soluteness. It was this love of purity which produced in her heart so tender an affection for the Queen of Virgins. Catharine could never speak of Our Lady but with transport. She had learned by heart her litanies, and recited them all, particularly in the evening, after the common prayers of the cabin. She always carried with her a rosary, which she recited many times in the course of the day. The Saturdays and other days which are particularly consecrated to her honor she devoted to extraordinary austerities, and devoted herself to the practical imitation of some of her virtues. She redoubled her fervor when they celebrated one of these festivals; and she selected such holydays to offer to God some new sacrifice, or to renew those which she had already made.

It was to be expected that so holy a life would be followed by a most happy death; and so it was in the last moments of her life that she edified us most by the practise of her virtues, and above all by her patience and union with God. She found herself very ill towards the time that the men are accustomed to go out to the hunting grounds in the forest, and when the females are occupied from morning even till evening in the fields. Those who are ill are therefore obliged to remain alone through the whole day in their cabins, a plate of Indian corn and a little water having in the morning been placed near their mat. It was in this abandonment that Catharine passed all the time of her last illness. But what would have overwhelmed another person with sadness, contributed rather to increase her joy, by furnishing her with something to increase her merit. Accustomed to commune alone with God, she turned this solitude to her profit, and made it serve to attach her more to her Creator by her prayers and fervent meditations.