

the Indians brought in from the hunt. Clothing there was none. The dead Indians' furs were kept to cover the sick. Finally, all three nuns succumbed to illness, and the Jesuits had to take their place in caring for the sick. Smallpox raged throughout the cold weather, and every disease incident to filth followed. To add to the difficulties of the Sisters, the Indians became troublesome and dissatisfied, and called the temporary hospital "the House of Death."

Towards Spring, finding the hills too steep to carry up their canoes, the savages removed themselves to Sillery, three miles distant. When in their own villages they found the smallpox had carried off even more victims than in "the House of Death," they returned, penitent, to beg the Sisters to remove also and take up their abode in a house near Sillery, which had been erected by Noël de Bruyard, a Knight of Malta. The Hospitalières decided to await the will of their foundress in this matter. At this crisis, however, the temporary hospital was mysteriously burned, so forcing the nuns to avail themselves of the offered shelter at Sillery. Here they attended the needs of the sick and the aged and taught the Indian children.

The next Winter there was so much scurvy that their house and neighborhood was again over-crowded with the sick, and even the chapel was filled. In visiting filthy Indian wigwams, the Sisters' white habits became hopelessly soiled, and they obtained permission to dye them with butter-nut juice.

While these Quebec nuns were working out a perilous existence, strange things were happening in France. At La Flèche, in Anjou, dwelt one Jerome le Koyer de la Dauversière, receiver of taxes. One day, while at his devotions, he heard an inward voice commanding him to become the founder of a new order of hospital nuns; he was further ordered to establish on the island called Montreal, in Canada, a hospital or Hotel Dieu, to be conducted by these nuns. But Montreal was a wilderness, and the hospital would have no patients. Therefore, in order to supply them, the island must first be colonized. Dauversière was greatly perplexed.

Again, there was at Paris a young priest, Jean Jacques Olier, afterwards widely known as the founder of the Seminary of St. Sulpice. He was praying in the ancient church of St. Germain des Prés, when, like Dauversière, he thought he heard a voice from heaven, saying that he was destined to be a light to the Gentiles, that he was to form a society of priests and establish them on the island called Montreal, in Canada, for the propagation of the true faith. While both he and Dauversière were totally ignorant of Canadian geography, they suddenly found themselves "in possession, they knew not how, of the most exact details