

« at once, as a sign of rejoicing, cut them up and threw them into the kettle. Another made him a present of a young and very tender beaver, but begged him to be careful not to give the bones to the dogs, for otherwise the hunt would be unsuccessful. » (1)

Assuredly neither the quantity nor the quality of the viands were wanting, but, so prepared and seasoned, they caused the Father such repugnance that he could hardly touch them.

Meanwhile La Nasse was not idle. He had promised the Father to give him some Moose meat, and he wished to do so generously. After cutting up a fine moose, killed three leagues from there, he loaded a sled with it for the Father and did as much for the two companions of his journey. When the time for departing arrived, the good Father, not to displease his hosts, bravely harnessed himself to the heavy sled and set out on his return to Quebec; but the generosity of La Nasse was greater than the Father's strength. « Hardly had they gone two hundred paces after bidding farewell, when the Father stopped short, he could see nothing, says Father Lejeune, and could hear nothing: the smoke of the cabin, the snow outside, want of food, the difficulties of the road made him feel so weak, that he was compelled to return whence he had started. » Here, the narrator reveals a slight secret hitherto kept concealed, but which clearly shows the simplicity and habits of the poor savages. He had, he said, taken with him a little bread and some peas, but the savages at once seized them, so fond of them are they, saying that he could eat as much of them as he liked when he returned to his house.

When the too generous La Nasse saw the Father return, led by the hand, he at once offered him to remain some time in his cabin. « No, he replied, but I cannot haul the load thou hast given me. — Come, said the savage, I shall haul it for thee, and I shall take that large sealskin to wrap thee up and I shall haul thee to thy house, if thou art sick. Take courage, I will not abandon thee. » And the narrator adds: « They returned to the house as best they could. »

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(1) Relation of 1633, p. 18