

ered with purple coloured spots of blood. Then the disease spread to the hips, thighs and shoulders, to the arms and neck. All who were attacked had their mouths diseased and their gums became so rotten that the flesh fell away from their teeth down to the roots, and in nearly all cases the teeth fell out. The disease took such a hold on the crews of all three vessels, that, by the middle of February, there were not 10 sound men out of the 110 of our number. It was pitiful to see them and to think of the place in which we were, for one could not assist another. The savages came every day before our fort but saw few of our people about, for eight were dead, and more than fifty had no hope of surviving.

Our Captain, seeing our miserable state and the extent to which the disease had spread, ordered all to make prayers and supplications, and he had an image, in remembrance of the Virgin Mary, carried and placed upon a tree about the distance of a bowshot across the snow and ice; and he ordered mass to be said at that place on the following Sunday. And he ordered that all, sick or well, who could walk should go in procession, chanting the seven psalms of David and the Litany, praying to the Virgin that she would entreat her dear Child to have pity upon us. After mass was said and celebrated before the image, the Captain made a vow of pilgrimage to Our Lady of Roquemado; promising to go there, if God gave him grace to return to France. That same day Philip Rougemont, a native of Ambroise, died, aged 22 years.

And, inasmuch as the disease was unknown to us, the Captain had his body opened to see if we could discover anything to preserve, if possible, the remainder of the party. The heart was found to be white and withered and surrounded by a lot of reddish water. The liver was healthy, but the lungs were black and mortified, and all the blood was drawn back over the heart; for when the body was opened a great quantity of black, corrupt blood issued out from over the heart. The spleen also near the spine was a little affected for about two fingers breadth, as if it had been rubbed upon a rough stone. Afterwards we opened up one of his thighs. It was black outside, but the flesh within was fairly sound. When all this was over we buried the body as best we could. May God in His blessed mercy pardon his soul and all his sins. Amen.

And after that the disease went on from day to day to such an extent that at one time there were not three healthy men in all the crews of the three ships. In one of the ships there was not a single man able to go below deck to get anything to drink, either for himself or for a comrade. Sometimes several died at once, and, on account