

ward to ask them if they wished to depart. They instantly assembled and deliberated, and gave this answer: 'We came here to fulfill a religious duty, and not to treat on business; another time we shall attend to that.' As the general pressed them again on that subject: 'Yee,' said they, 'we shall depart; but the first condition of our departure is, that we shall have a priest to accompany us.'

"The next day, at 11 o'clock, we saw them arriving in a line, to the number of nearly eighty, mounted upon handsome horses. The women held their children in their arms, and carried behind them all the luggage of the family; amongst them the woman is still the servant. The man came next, dressed in their best attire; they traversed in silence the neighbouring town, for the chief of prayer had forbidden them to stop in it on account of the snares laid for their simplicity; they then passed the beautiful river St. Joseph, and arrived at Our Lady's. There they took their places around the Lake; each family pitched their tent and lighted their fire. But the Priest with the *long black gown*, was already waiting for them in the chapel, to prepare them for the solemnity. During three days he exhorted them, instructed them; and heard their confessions; and these docile children so completely forgot everything that regarded not the care of their souls, that, on one occasion, at sun-set they had not as yet taken their morning food. It is true, that a mistake was the cause of this rigorous fasting, but not one of the Indians thought of complaining.

"At length, the wished-for day, they assembled early in the morning; the prayer began, and two neophytes were baptized; two others were to re-

ceive on the following day the sacrament of matrimony. During the solemn Mass, sermons delivered in three languages; for the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, some through faith, and others through curiosity, were desirous of witnessing the ceremony, and the chapel was filled with attendants. Immediately on the cession of the grave chant of the church, the Indians intoned their pious hymns. We did not understand their language; but there was in their accent something so tender, and the recollection expressed in their voices, had for us so many charms, that I with difficulty restrained my emotion. When we came to the moment of communion, my tears flowed in abundance. The men presented themselves first, the women came then, enveloped in their white blankets, as in a religious veil. Being prostrated during the ceremony, all advanced on their knees to the holy table: we may believe, that had they known any other mode of expressing greater humility, they would have practiced it. After having received their God, they remained motionless, and one might have supposed them dead, were it not their lips moved slowly, and their faces appeared lighted up. No, I have never anywhere witnessed such recollections and piety.

"In a short time after, these poor Indians quitted, never to see them more, the places which they had so many reasons to love; the day of their emigration was come. Ancient masters of the forest, they were now dispossessed of it; their villages had disappeared; they had no longer any lands; necessity obliged them to depart, and they had to forsake all, even the ashes of their fathers.

"I now learn with consolation, from