

his legs already quite corrupted. In this condition he passed the Winter in isolation, with only his wife and little children for company, in the heart [94] of the woods. He ceased not to sigh for one of the Fathers and, by an instinct altogether divine, promised himself that he should see one in a short time, although never before had one appeared in these regions. God gave him the courage and strength to drag himself as far as Nekouba, without a thought on his part that there he would attain his blessedness in finding us. And, as he had already been a disciple of the Holy Ghost, it was easy to instruct him sufficiently for sharing in our mysteries. Accordingly, he was baptized with his family; and, delighted at this happy meeting, he returned to his home—that is, to the woods—there to continue and perfect, in the innocence of Christianity, the life he had previously led. This had doubtless touched God's heart to put [95] the poor cripple in the pathway of salvation by a very signal favor.

## SECTION II. DANGERS ON THE WAY TO THE NORTH SEA.

“**D**O not such dispensations of Providence” (continue the Fathers in their Journal) “recompense with usury the fatigues undergone in coming so far to win souls? A single conversation on heavenly themes, held with a Savage in some wooded nook or on the edge of some rock; a soul won for God; a child baptized; a barbarian at your feet weeping over the sins of many years, although they be often years of innocence,—these impart a joy greater than [96] the trouble caused by all the hardships of a long and arduous journey. Even were one to have only the consolation of honoring God by the holy