

feverish, and especially when I thought myself affected by the bad air. I accordingly went every day into the woods, and there in spite of all the efforts to clear away the snow, we often went waist-deep. This was not our only trouble in this employment; the trees in our neighborhood were full of branches, all so loaded with snow, that, at the first stroke of the axe, it knocked down the one that struck; we were all three in succession thrown down, and we often fell each two or three times, then we continued the work; and when, by repeated shaking, the tree was disencumbered of the snow, we felled it, cut it in pieces, and returned to the cabin, each with his load; then our comrades went for the rest, or rather for what was needed for that day. We found this hard work, but we had to do it; and although the fatigue was extreme, everything was to be feared if we neglected to keep it up manfully; the difficulty increased day by day, for, as we cut down the wood, we had to go further, and so lengthen our journey. Our weakness increased, as our toil became greater. Fir branches thrown down without order, were our bed; we were devoured by vermin, for we had no change of clothing; the smoke and snow gave us terrible soreness in the eyes, and, to complete our miseries, we became at once extremely costive, and afflicted by an incontinence of urine, which gave us not a moment's rest. I leave it to physicians to settle whence this arose; had we known the cause, it would not have availed us; it is useless to learn the source of an evil which we cannot remedy.

On the 24th of December, we dried our chapel furniture; we had a little wine left; I thawed it, and on

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