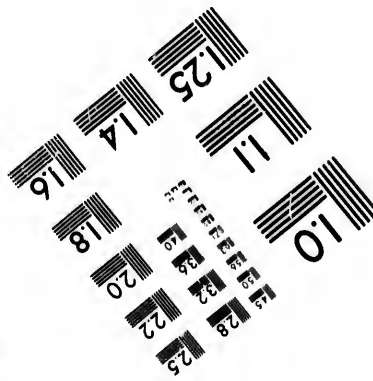
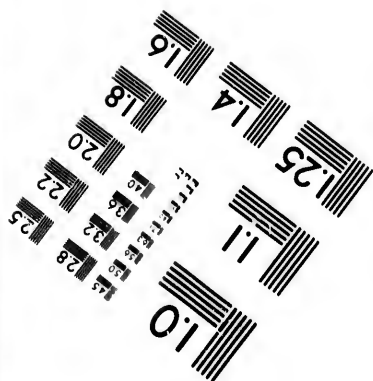
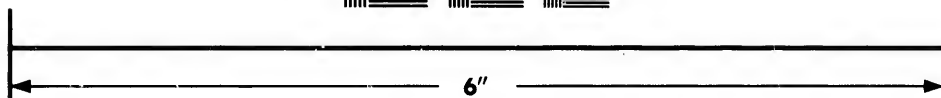
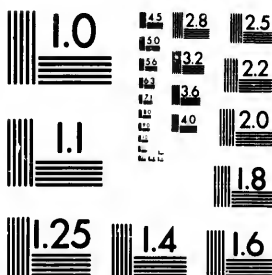


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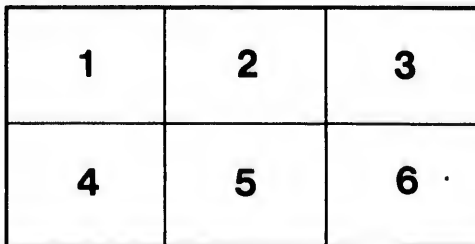
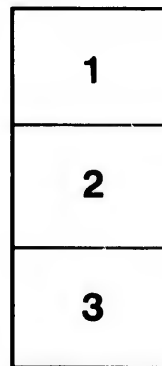
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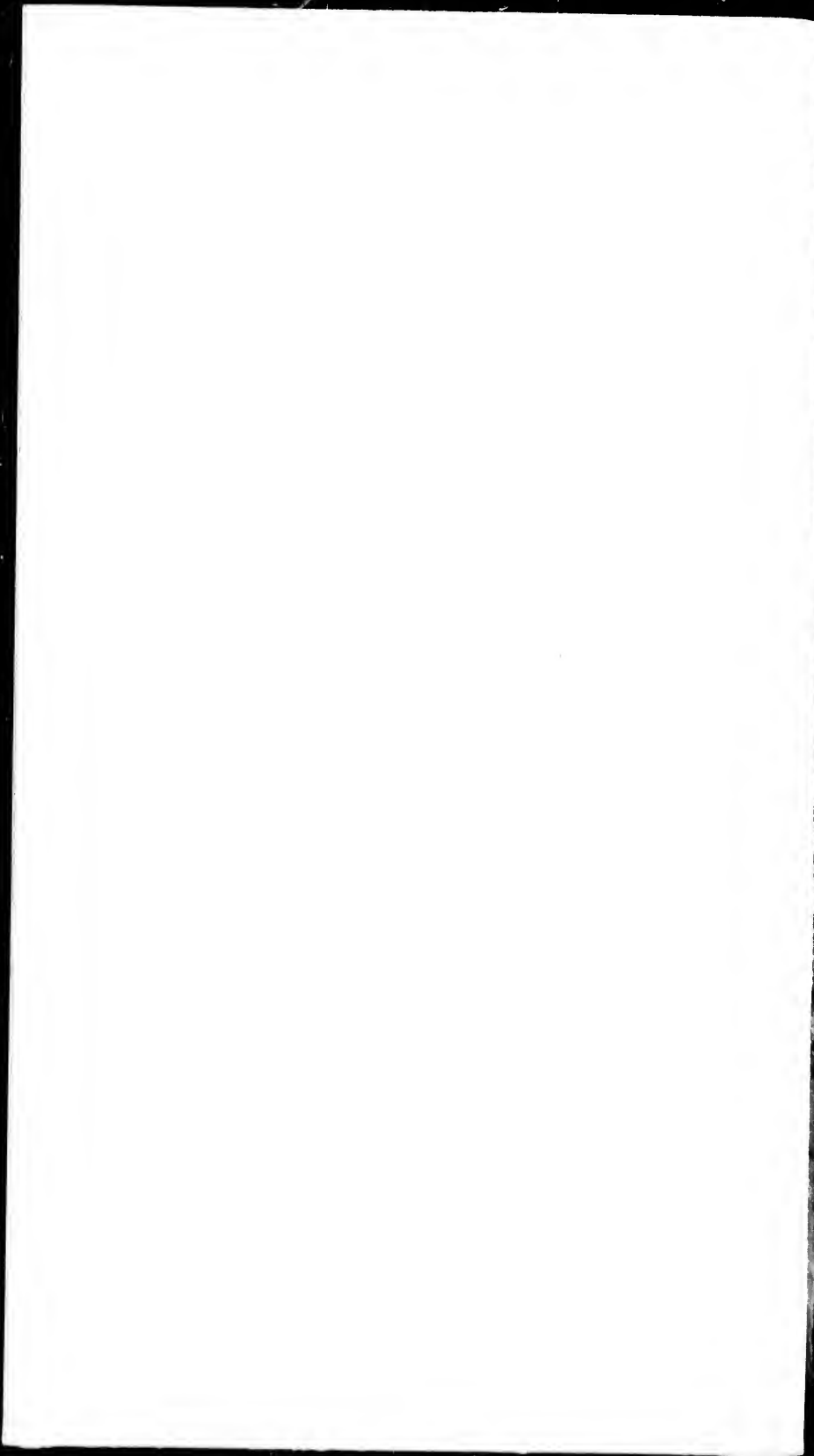
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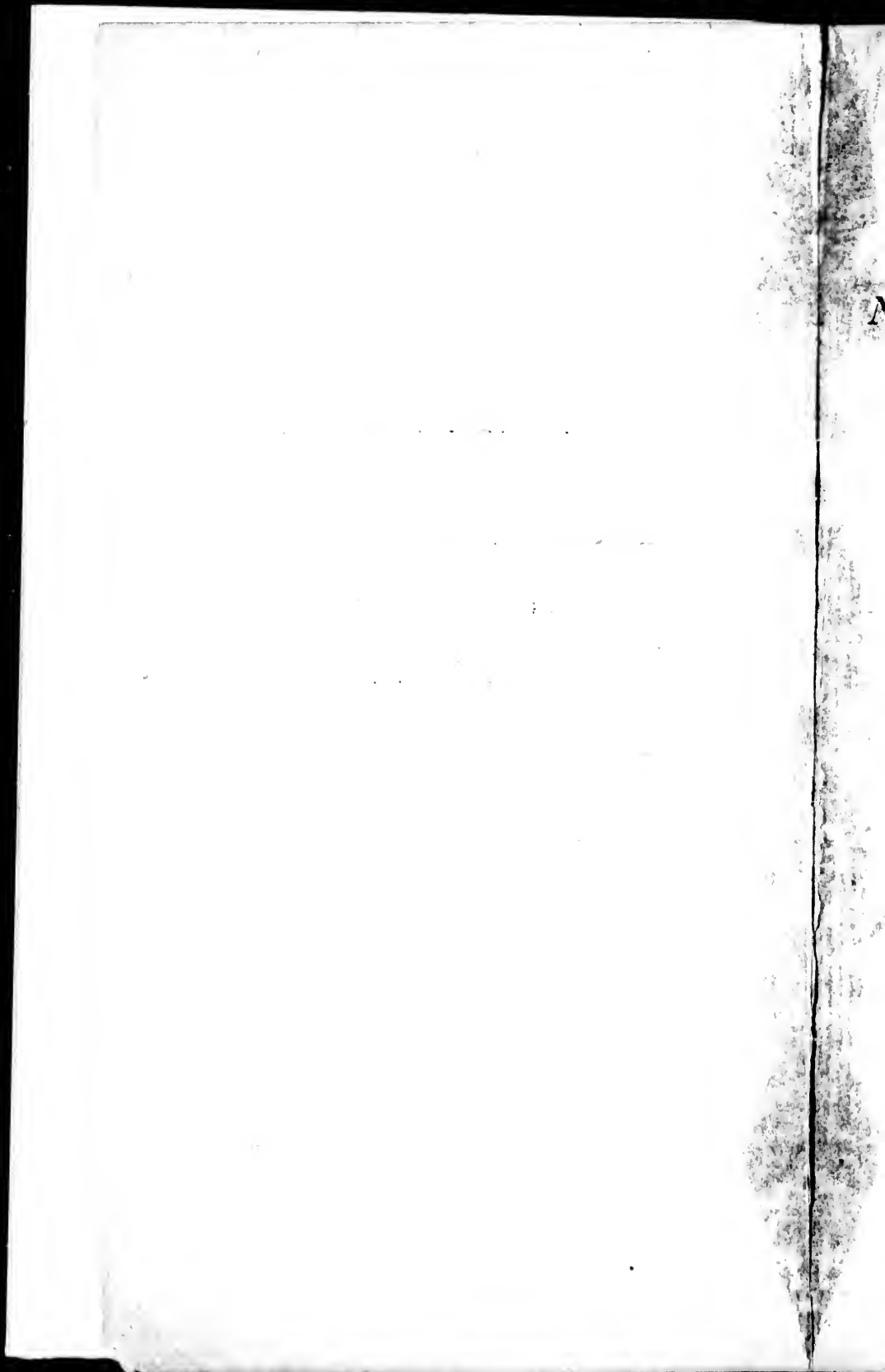
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TRAVELS  
IN  
NORTH AMERICA,  
BY M. CRESPEL.

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1797

TRAVELS  
IN  
NORTH AMERICA;  
BY M. CREPESL.  
WITH A  
NARRATIVE OF HIS SHIPWRECK,  
AND EXTRAORDINARY  
HARDSHIPS AND SUFFERINGS  
ON THE  
ISLAND OF ANTICOSTI;  
AND AN  
ACCOUNT OF THAT ISLAND,  
AND OF THE  
SHIPWRECK  
OF HIS  
MAJESTY'S SHIP ACTIVE,  
AND OTHERS.

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London:

PRINTED BY AND FOR  
SAMPSON LOW, BERWICK STREET, SOHO.

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## INTRODUCTION.

SOME apology may be thought necessary for introducing to the Public the following Narrative of a transaction which happened at so distant a period of time; but a recent event, the Shipwreck of Lord Dorchester on the Island of Anticosti, suggested an idea that the Public would be glad to receive an account of a spot on the globe hitherto little known, even by name, except to those navigators who sail up the river of St. Lawrence.

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The Island of Anticosti has been long dreaded for shipwrecks; as long ago as the year 1690, when Sir William Phipps was returning down the river from his unsuccessful attack on Quebec, a brig of the fleet, with sixty men on board, being separated from the rest, struck on this island, and the people on board had only time to land their provisions before the ship sunk. The captain and his men, finding they must inevitably winter on the island, built a storehouse and nine small huts, from the planks of the wreck, to shelter them from the cold; but their provisions were so short, that they agreed

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agreed that each man's allowance per week should be no more than two biscuits, half a pound of pork, half a pound of flour, one pint and a quarter of pease, and two salt fish. It was not long before the dismal effects of hunger and cold began to appear among them, for on the 20th of December their doctor died, and after him thirty or forty more in a few weeks; and though they were all convinced of the necessity of keeping to their allowance, unless they would at last eat one another, yet their storehouse was frequently broke open: an Irishman once got to the provisions, and eat no less than  
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cighteen biscuits, which swelled him to such a degree, that he was forced to have his belly stroked, and bathed before the fire, to prevent its bursting. On the 25th of March five of the company resolved to venture out to sea in their skiff, which they lengthened out so far as to make a sort of cabin for two or three men, and having got a small sail, they shipped their share of provisions on board, and steered away for Boston; it was the 9th of May before these poor wretches arrived there, through a thousand dangers, from the sea and the ice, and almost quite starved with hunger and cold

swelled cold: upon their arrival, a vessel  
 that he was was immediately dispatched away  
 stroked, to the island, which in a few  
 the fire, to weeks brought off their friends  
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Soon after the conquest of Ca-  
 nada, an English ship, bound out  
 to Quebec very late in the season,  
 had likewise the misfortune to be  
 lost on this desert island; her  
 crew and passengers wintered  
 there; endured inexpressible hard-  
 ships from cold and hunger,  
 and were indebted for their pre-  
 servation principally to a cargo of  
 French wine which they had on  
 board, a large quantity of which  
 afforded

afforded them sufficient nourishment to sustain life, when almost every other species of sustenance failed. The translator has exerted himself to procure a narrative of their sufferings; but this, from the deaths of the persons who were on board, and no such narrative being preserved in print, he was unable to accomplish.

The captain and crew of his Majesty's ship *Active*, on board of which Lord Dorchester and his family embarked last year, were much more fortunate; they were shipwrecked at a more early period of the season, and preserved their  
boat,

boat, which being fitted up and sent to Halifax, a king's ship was dispatched, and brought the whole of the passengers and crew away in safety.

The following affecting narrative was published in France, and written, in the form of a letter, from M. Crespel to his brother; and, besides an account of his sufferings by shipwreck, contains a previous detail of his travels in Canada, and in some parts of that province but little known, and at that time but poorly inhabited.

M. Crespel seems a man of a religious turn of mind, sometimes bordering on enthusiasm; and perhaps some of the readers would have been as well pleased if part, or all of his reflections had been omitted; but as they all arise naturally from his subject, and shew a zeal which, in the temper of his mind, was highly worthy of praise, it was judged best not to omit them.

The following description of the island of Anticosti was drawn up by Mr. T. WRIGHT, who wintered there, and surveyed the island by order of government.

The

The Island of Anticosti is situated at the entrance of the river St. Lawrence, between the parallels of 49 deg. 4 min. and 49 deg. 53 min. 15 sec. N. latitude, and the meridians of 61 deg. 58 min. and 64 deg. 35 min. West longitude from London, determined by ten observations on the eclipses of Jupiter's first Satellite. Its circumference is 282 statute miles, its length 129 miles, and its breadth from 32 to 12 miles. This island contains 1,699,840 acres of very indifferent land; the nature of the soil and natural produce as follows:

A 5

The

The

The land in general is composed of a light-coloured stone, which is of a soft crumbling nature, and in some parts is mixed with clay. After digging to the depth of about two feet, you meet with small flat stones, with scarce any other mixture.

The sea coast, from the South-West point, to the West point, (including Ellis Bay and Observation River), is in height from 20 to 50 feet, and is mostly covered with woods to the water's edge.

Ellis

Ellis Bay affords the only shelter for vessels in this large island, and that but a very indifferent one, which would be greatly exposed to the southerly winds, were it not for the shoals which extend from each side of the entrance, near two thirds of the distance across the bay, by which means they retard the violence of the sea; but at the same time, they endanger vessels in entering the bay with a wind on shore, by causing a great swell on the bar, on which there is but  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms water.



The land at the bottom of this bay is low marsh, and produces small birch, and spruce trees of different sorts.

Observation River is the largest, and runs the greatest distance of any in the island. We measured eight leagues up it without determining its length. This river is remarkable; for, notwithstanding its steep banks, which in the middle of the island are rocky bluffs about 100 feet in height, it is fordable almost in every part, except where it empties itself into the sea. The bottom is  
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stony, and the water exceeding clear. This river will admit of small vessels at the entrance, and at the time of high water, which is very regular here at the full and change of the moon, at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

The entrance of it is formed by two gravel points, which are continually shifting their situation in a gale of wind from the westward, so that at one time its breadth will not be more than 20 yards, and at other times 150 yards, and in the fall of the year is liable to be entirely choaked up, so as to be impassable, which really

really happened when the equinoctial gales prevailed in the month of September, a few days after we had got our vessel into the river.

I am of opinion, that the seal fishery might be carried on here with some success in the spring of the year; these creatures, at the time of high water, enter the river in great bodies, and are very careful to be out again before the tide quits them, which might be easily prevented by a net properly placed at the entrance of the river.

The

The Sea-cows frequent the South-West point in the fall of the year, but not many in number, and in such a place as would render it impossible to cut them off.

This island is so well watered, that in the space of every mile round its coast you will either meet with a small rivulet or run of fresh water.

The land, from the South-West point to the East point, is chiefly low heaths of black turf, such as is used for fuel; bears no wood for the space of one to two miles  
from

The

from the sea shore, and contains many small lakes and ponds, where a prodigious number of wild fowl resort in the spring to breed up their young.

The land on the North side, from the West point to Bear Cape, is very hilly near the middle of the island, and well wooded with birch, spruce, and pine of a middling size, the largest not exceeding fifteen inches diameter.

These hills, with a gradual descent, form an edging of low grass land with willow trees along the sea coast.

The

The island, from Bear Cape to the East point, contains several small bays, the extreme points of which are high white cliffs, which lose themselves in a regular descent, and form between them a fine low sand beach, out of which issues several rivulets or streams of fresh water.

The fruits, herbs, plants, and vegetables, which are the natural produce of this island, are cranberries, gooseberries, strawberries, huckleberries, red Indian-berries, juniper-berries, peas, parsley, onions, lambquarters, or wild spinach,

The

nage, Indian potatoes, farsaparilla, maiden-hair, and Indian tea.

The Bears, who are the principal inhabitants of this island, are so numerous, that in the space of six weeks we killed fifty-three, and might have destroyed twice that number if we had thought fit. These animals, during the winter season, live in the hollows under the roots of trees, and it is asserted for fact, that they receive no other kind of nourishment during that time but from sucking their paws. It is indeed highly probable, that they live in  
a torpid

a torpid state in severe frosts, as we neither saw one of them, or even their tracks in the snow during the winter. They come out of their holes in the month of April, exceedingly poor, and feed on fish and sea weed that is cast on shore. In the summer, they feed on berries and roots, for which they search very diligently, by grubbing along the sea shore after the manner of swine. These animals have been so little molested by mankind, that we have frequently passed near them without their discovering the least fear; nor did they ever shew any  
incli-



inclination to attack us, except only the females in defence of their young. The largest of these bears weigh about 300 pounds, and are very good meat.

In this island there are also foxes, martins, and otters; the foxes are very numerous, and are of two colours, the silver gray and red; partridges are scarce, and are entirely white.

Of the water fowl there are the greatest plenty, and some of them of a species peculiar to this country.

Fish.

Fish are very scarce along the coast of this island, except near the east point, where, about the distance of three leagues to the northward of that point, is a small fishing bank.

Whales (that have been wounded, and escaped) are sometimes cast on shore on the south side of this island; for the south-west point forming a long bay with the west point, and facing the westward, a prevailing wind from that quarter, and a strong current setting down the river St. Lawrence, drives them ashore on this part of the island, where the Indians

dians from the main land, crossing over in the summer to hunt, frequently find them.

The winter that we spent on this island was very severe, there being frost at different times, from the 15th day of September, to the 21st day of June following, on which day I broke a thin skin of ice on a pond, and on the 31st day of May measured a bank of snow which lay near the sea, eleven feet perpendicular height, and half a mile in length. We had two continued frosts night and day, the one lasted from the 14th day of November to the 6th day

day of January, and the other from the 12th of the same month to the 23d day of March following; during each of these set frosts the thermometer was from ten, twenty, thirty, to forty-seven degrees below the freezing mark, and the sea seldom to be seen for the quantity of ice and snow which was spread over its surface.

There is a report which prevails amongst the French, but how well grounded I cannot say, that a silver mine was discovered on the south side of this island, up a small river about six leagues from the west point, and that some of  
the

the ore was taken to France, but I had not time to make a proper search after it.

A great number of vessels have formerly been wrecked on the eastern part of this island, which may now easily be accounted for, as by the best draughts hitherto made it appears on the present actual survey, to be twelve leagues short of its real length, and considerably out of its situation both in latitude and longitude.

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## VOYAGE, TRAVELS,

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YOU may remember that, towards the end of the year 1723, I received permission of my superiors to embark for the New World, a favour I had long solicited. I therefore proceeded to Paris, and received a licence from father Guisdron, Provincial of St. Denis, who had the  
B direction

direction of the missions in New France, or Canada.

Proceeding from thence to Rochelle, and having there procured every thing necessary for my passage, I embarked in the ship Camel, sailed on the 24th of May, 1724, and arrived at Quebec after a passage of ten weeks.

Here I remained till the year 1726; and here M. de la Croix, the Bishop of Quebec, conferred the priesthood upon me, and soon after appointed me curate of a village called Forel, situated to the south  
of

of the river St. Lawrence, between the towns of Three-Rivers and Montreal.

Quebec, the capital of the province of Canada, or New France, is singularly situated, being a hundred and twenty leagues from the sea, and yet possessing a harbour capable of containing a hundred sail of line of battle ships. The river St. Lawrence is here about a mile broad, although below it is from four to five leagues. The first thing which strikes you on your arrival, is a fine falling sheet of water, called the Falls of Montmorenci, which is



about thirty feet in breadth, and forty in height.

The city, which stands between the rivers St. Lawrence and St. Charles, consists of two towns. In the lower town, the merchants and traders live; and the passage from thence to the upper town is so steep, that it has been found necessary to cut steps, and therefore can only be ascended on foot. In the upper town are the cathedral, the seminary, and place of arms. The fortifications are not complete, but they have been long employed in rendering it a place of strength. It was, however,

however, sufficiently strong to resist the attacks of the English in 1711. The number of inhabitants are reckoned at seven thousand, many of whom are worth money, and exert themselves to make life as agreeable and cheerful as they can. Both sexes here have as fine complexions as any people in the world; are gay and sprightly; and although situated in a colony at such a distance from Europe, and locked up, by the severity of their climate, from the rest of the world for more than half the year, are extremely polite and engaging in their manners.

Three-Rivers is a town called so from its situation, which contains about seven or eight hundred inhabitants, and is one of the most ancient towns in the colony, and owed its rise to the great resort of Indians from the most distant quarters, by means of its three rivers. This port, next to Montreal, is the most important for trade in all Canada. There is plenty of iron found in its neighbourhood, and they are now beginning to work the mines. The Jesuits made a settlement, a few leagues below this place, with all the Indian converts they could collect; but, by a series of  
of

of war and diseases, it was soon destroyed.

Two years after I was drawn from my curacy to go Chaplain to a party of four hundred French, which the Marquis de Beauharnois commanded, and who were to be joined by eight or nine hundred Indians of several nations, particularly Iroquois, who inhabit the south of the river St. Lawrence, between the English and French colonies\*, by the Hurons and Nipissings,

\* M. Crespel does not say what induced the French Government of Canada to undertake this expedition; and it cannot escape

sings, and the Outawahs, who lived on the lakes and rivers of those names. To these, M. Pefet, a priest, and Father Bertonniere, a Jesuit, acted as Chaplains. The whole, under the command of M. de Lignerie, were dispatched with orders to *destroy* a nation of Indians, called, by the French, the Fox Indians, but, in their own language, the Outagamies, situated on lake Michigan, about four hundred and fifty leagues from Montreal.

escape observation, that this *Christian* priest talks of destroying a whole nation of innocent Indians with great coolness and composure.

The

The Iroquois Indians inhabit the south side of the river St. Lawrence, between the English and French colonies, and are the most powerful, warlike, and politic people among the natives of North America. They consist of six confederate nations, and their form of government somewhat resembles that of the Swiss Cantons. Many of these Iroquois are settled in the interior of the French colony in villages, are converted, and as submissive to the French government as Indians can be made. They have rendered us good services, particularly in war time.

The Hurons are situated between lakes Huron, Eri, and Ontario. The Nipissings, to the north east of lake Huron.

We set off the 5th of June, 1728, and ascended the great river which bears the name of the Outawahs, and is full of falls and carrying places. We quitted it at Matawan, to enter a river which leads into lake Nipissing; the length of this river is about thirty leagues, and, like that of the Outawahs, full of falls and carrying places. From this river we entered the lake, whose breadth is about eight leagues; after crossing which, the river of the French carried

carried us quickly into lake Huron, into which it falls, after having run a course of thirty leagues with great rapidity.

As it was not possible so many persons could go down these small rivers together, it was agreed, that those who passed down first, should wait for the others at the entrance of lake Huron, in a place called La Prairie, which is a very fine situation. Here, for the first time, I saw a rattle-snake, whose bite is said to be mortal, but none of us received any injury.



The 26th of July we were all assembled together, and I celebrated mass, which I had hitherto deferred; next day we departed for Michilimakinac, a post situated between the lakes Huron and Michigan. Although the distance was one hundred leagues, we ran it in less than six days. Here we remained some time to repair what had been damaged in the falls and carrying places; and here I consecrated two pair of colours, and interred two soldiers, who were carried off by fatigue and illness.

Michilimakinac is a post advantageously situated for trade, with  
three

three great lakes—Michigan, which is three hundred leagues in circuit; Huron, which is full three hundred and fifty leagues in circumference; and lake Superior, which is full five hundred leagues round: all three navigable for the largest sort of boats, and the two first separated only by a small strait, which has water sufficient for small vessels, who can sail, without any obstacle over lake Eri, to the post of Niagara.

The 10th of August we left Machilimakinac, and entered lake Michigan. As we had contrary winds for two days, our Indians had time  
to

to hunt, and they brought in two elks and a *caribou*, and were generous enough to offer us a part. We made some difficulties in receiving their favour, but they forced us, and told us, that since we had shared with them the fatigues of the journey, it was but just we should partake of the comforts it had procured, and that they should not esteem themselves men if they did not act thus to their brethren. This answer, which was spoken in French, affected me sensibly. What humanity among those we call savages! and how many should we find in Europe to whom that title might be more properly applied!

The

The generosity of our Indians derived a lively sense of gratitude from us. Several times, when we had not been able to find places for hunting, we had been obliged to live on salt meat. The flesh of the elks and *caribou* removed the distaste we began to entertain for our ordinary food.

The *Original*, or Elk of Canada, is as large as a horse, and his horns as long as those of a stag, but thicker, and more inclining over the back, the tail short, and his skin a mixture of light gray and reddish black. The Caribou is not so tall, and  
shaped

The

shaped more like the afs, but equals the stag in swiftness.

The 14th of the same month we continued our route as far as the strait of Chicagou, and passing from thence to Cape La Mort, which is five leagues, we encountered a gale of wind that drove several of our canoes on shore who could not double the cape and shelter themselves under it: several were lost, and the men distributed among the other canoes, who by great good fortune escaped the danger.

The

The 15th we landed among the Malomines, with a view to provoke them to oppose our descent; they fell into the snare, and were entirely defeated.

These Indians are called by the French *Folles Avoines*, or Wild-Oat Indians, probably from their living chiefly on that sort of grain. The whole nation consists only of this village, who are some of the tallest and handsomest men in Canada.

The next day we encamped at the entrance of a river named La Gasparde; our Indians entered

tered the woods, and brought back several deer, a kind of game very common in this place, and which supplied us with provisions for some days.

We halted on the 17th from noon to evening, to avoid arriving at the post of La Baye before night, wishing to surprize our enemies, whom we knew to be in company with the Saguis, our allies, whose village lay near Fort St. Francis. We advanced in the evening, and at midnight reached our fort at the entrance of the Fox river. As soon as we arrived, Monsieur de Lignerie sent some Frenchmen to  
the

the commandant to know for certain if there were any enemies in the village, and being assured there were, he sent all the Indians, and a detachment of the French, across the river Le Sur, round the habitations, while the rest of the French entered by the direct way. However we had endeavoured to conceal our arrival, the enemies had information, and all the inhabitants escaped except four, who were delivered to our Indians; and they, after having long amused themselves with tormenting them, shot them with arrows.

I was



I was a painful witness of this cruel transaction, and could not reconcile the brutal pleasure they took in tormenting these unfortunate people, and making them suffer the pain of twenty deaths before they deprived them of life, with the generous sentiments expressed by these same savages a few days ago. I wished to have asked them, if they did not perceive the striking contrast in their conduct, and to point out what I thought reprehensible in their proceeding; but as all our interpreters were on the other side of the river, I was obliged to postpone my inquiries till another time.

After

After this affair we ascended the Fox river, which is much troubled with rapids, and whose course is near forty leagues. The 24th of August we arrived at the village of the *Puans* Indians, whose name, in their language, does not bear the same signification as in French, but from their vicinity to the waters, and they may therefore be more properly called the Maritime Indians. Our people were well disposed to destroy such men as they should find there, but the flight of the inhabitants saved them, and we could only burn their huts, and destroy the harvest of Indian corn, on which they subsist.

We

We afterwards crossed the little lake of the Foxes, and encamped at the end. The next day being St. Lawrence, we had mafs\*, and entered a small river which led us to a marshy ground, on the borders of which was situated the chief settlement of those Indians of whom we were in search. Their allies, the Saguis, had given them notice of our approach; they did not think proper to wait our arrival, and we found in their village some women only, whom our Indians made slaves, and an old man, whom they

\* How easy does this pious missionary pass from havock and destruction to devotion.

burned

burned by a slow fire, without manifesting the least repugnance for committing so barbarous an action.

This cruelty appeared to me more atrocious than that they had exercised on the four Saguis. I seized this opportunity to satisfy my curiosity on the subject I before-mentioned. Among our Frenchmen we had one who spoke the Iroquois language, whom I desired to tell the Indians, that I was surpris'd to see them, with so much apparent pleasure, inflict such a cruel death on an unfortunate old man ; that the laws of war did not extend so far, and that it appeared to me, that such  
barbarity

barbarity gave the lie to all those good principles they pretended to entertain towards mankind. One of the Iroquois answered, that if any of them should fall into the hands of the Foxes or Saguis, they would experience still more cruel treatment, and that it was a custom with them to treat their enemies as they should be treated by them if they were taken.

I wished much to have been acquainted with the language of this Indian, to have shewn him what was blameable in his answer; but was obliged to content myself with desiring my interpreter to represent

to

to him, that nature and religion still more required that we should be humane towards one another, and that moderation should guide us in all our actions ; that pardon, and a forgiveness of injuries, was a virtue, the practice of which was expressly commanded by heaven ; that I conceived it would not be safe for them to spare the Fox or Saguis Indians, but that if they put them to death, it should be as foes to their nation, and not as their private enemies ; that such revenge was criminal, and that to exercise such excesses as they had towards the five unfortunate men they had put to death with such cruel torments, in some degree

c

justified

justified the barbarity with which they reproached their enemies; that the laws of war only permitted them to take the life of their enemy, and not to glut themselves with his blood, or drive them to despair by destroying them in any other way than by combat and arms: in fine, that they ought to set the Foxes and Saguis that example of moderation which is the proof of a good heart, and which makes the Christian Religion, and those who profess it, so much loved and admired.

I do not know whether my interpreter explained my sentiments clearly, but the Indian could not be brought

brought to confess that he acted on a false principle. I was proceeding to urge further reasons, when orders were given to advance against the last post of the enemy, which was situated on a little river which runs into another river that communicates with the Mississippi.

We did not find any Indians, and as we had no orders to advance further, we employed some days in laying waste the country, to deprive the enemy of the means of subsistence. The country hereabout is beautiful, the land fertile, the game plenty and good, the nights were



very cold, but the days extremely hot.

After this expedition, if such a useless march deserves that name, we prepared to return to Montreal, from which we were now four hundred and fifty leagues distant. In our passage we destroyed the fort at La Baye, because being so near the enemy it would not afford a secure retreat to the French, who must be left as a garrison. The Fox Indians, irritated by our ravages, and convinced that we should scarcely make a second visit into a country where we were uncertain of meeting with any inhabitants, might have

have blockaded the fort, and perhaps have taken it. When we arrived at Michilimakinac, our commander gave permission to every one to go where he pleased. We had now three hundred leagues to travel, and our provisions would have fallen short if we had not exerted ourselves to make a quick passage. The winds favoured us in crossing lake Huron; but we had continual rains while we were on the river of the French, while crossing lake Michigan, and on the river Matawan, which ceased as we entered the river of the Outawahs. I cannot describe the swiftness with which we descended this great river, of which

imagination only can form an idea. As I was in a canoe with some men whom experience had taught how to descend the rapids, I was not one of the last at Montreal, where I arrived the 28th of September, and remained there till the spring, when I received orders to proceed to Quebec.

Montreal, the second city in Canada, is of a quadrangular form, situated on the bank of a river, which gently rising divides the city into the upper and lower town. In the lower is an hospital, magazines, and place of arms; and in the upper, the seminary, church, convent of  
the

the Recollôts, and governor's house.  
 Montreal is situated on a fine island,  
 about ten leagues in length, and  
 four leagues in its greatest breadth,  
 formed by two branches of the river  
 St. Lawrence.

I no sooner reached that city than  
 our commissary ordered me for Nia-  
 gara, then a new settlement, with a  
 fortress situated at the entrance of a  
 fine river of the same name, formed  
 by the celebrated cataract of Nia-  
 gara, which lies south of lake On-  
 tario, and six leagues from our fort.

I therefore returned to Montreal,  
 and passed from thence to fort Fron-  
 tinjac,

tiniaac, or Cataraquoy, built at the entrance of lake Ontario. Although only eighty leagues from Montreal, as we went against the stream of the river, we were fifteen days in ascending. Here we quitted our canoe, and embarked in a vessel of the king's, built for the navigation of the lake, of about eighty tons burden, very swift, and which sometimes crosses the lake, a passage of seventy leagues, in thirty-six hours. The lake is very safe, being deep, and without rocks; I sounded in the middle with an hundred fathom of line, and could find no bottom. It is about thirty leagues broad, and ninety long.

We

We failed the 22d of July, but did not arrive until the 25th. I found the place very agreeable; hunting and fishing were very productive, the woods in their greatest beauty, and full of walnut and chestnut trees, oaks, elms, and some others, far superior to any we see in France.

The fever soon destroyed the pleasures we began to find, and much incommoded us until the beginning of autumn, which season dispelled the unwholesome air. We passed the winter very quietly, and would have passed it very agreeably, if the vessel which was to have brought

us refreshments had not encountered a storm on the lake, and been obliged to put back to Frontiniac, which laid us under the necessity of drinking nothing but water. As the winter advanced, she dared not to proceed, and we did not receive our stores till May.

In the spring I made a journey to Detroit, on the invitation of a brother of our order, who was there on a mission. From Niagara to this post is an hundred leagues, which is situated about fifteen leagues on this side the extremity of lake Erie.

This

This lake is about a hundred leagues long, and thirty broad, is shallow, and consequently dangerous in stormy weather. To the northward it is troubled with shoals, so that if a vessel is taken by the wind in a place where there is no good landing, which sometimes is not to be found in a space of three leagues; there is great danger of perishing.

In seventeen days I reached Detroit, and was received by the priest I went to visit with a warmth which shewed the extreme pleasure we experience in meeting one of our countrymen in a distant region; be-



fides we were brethren of the same order, and had quitted our country for the same motive. I was therefore welcome to him on many accounts; nor did he omit any opportunity of convincing me how pleased he was with my visit. He was older than me, and had been very successful in his apostolic labours: his house was agreeable and convenient; it was, as I may say, his own work, and the habitation of virtue.

His time, which was not employed in the duties of his office; was divided between study and the occupations of the field. He had a  
few

few books, the choice of which afforded a good idea of the purity of his morals, and the extent of his knowledge. With the language of the country he was familiar; and the facility with which he spoke it made him very acceptable to many of the Indians, who communicated to him their reflections on all subjects, particularly religion. Affability attracts confidence, and no one was more deserving of the latter than this good man.

He had taught some of the inhabitants of Detroit the French language; and among them I found many whose good sense and sound judgement

judgement would have made them conspicuous, even in France, had their minds been cultivated by study. Every day I remained with this man I found new motives to envy his situation. In a word, he was happy, and had no cause to blush at the means by which he became so.

Detroit, or the Narrows, is situated on the strait leading from lake Huron to lake Eri. The country round is said by many to be the finest part of Canada, and seems to want nothing that can make a country delightful: hills, meadows, fields, forests, rivulets, fountains,  
all

all excellent in their kind, and so happily blended as to equal the most romantic wishes. The lands are in general wonderfully fertile, and the islands seem as if placed on purpose to add to the beauty of the prospect. The fort, which is called Pontchartrain\*, is on the west side of the strait, and has many Indian villages near it.

\* This fort, Niagara, and Michilimackinac, are all situated on the side of the lakes which belong to the United States of America; have ever since the peace been subjects of contention between Great Britain and those states, and by the late treaty of commerce have been delivered up to the Americans.

I re-

I returned from this visit to Niagara, where I remained two years, and in that time learned enough of the Iroquois and Outawah languages to converse in them. This enabled me to enjoy their company when I took a walk in the environs of our post. In the sequel you will see this was extremely useful to me, and saved my life.

When my three years residence at Niagara expired, I was, according to custom, relieved, and passed the winter at the convent at Quebec. It was a great satisfaction to me to pass that rigorous season there. If

we

we had no superfluities, we however wanted nothing that was necessary ; and what was none of our least pleasures, we heard news from our country, and found a society with whom we could converse.

The chaplain of fort Frontinac fell sick in the spring, and our commissary intended me to supply his place, the situation of which post I have before described. Here I remained two years, when I was recalled to Montreal, and soon after sent to point *La Chevalure*, or Scalping Point, on lake Champlain, so called because the Indians, when they

they kill any one, cut off his scalp, which they carry on a pole, as a proof that they have defeated their enemies. This custom gave a name to the place, as in a battle at this point many Indians were scalped.

Lake Champlain is about fifty-five leagues long ; is adorned with several agreeable islands, the waters are good, and well stored with fish. The fort we have at this place is called Frederick, situated advantageously on a very elevated point of land, fifteen leagues from the northern end of the lake, and is the key to the colony of New France,

France, or Canada, towards the English settlements, which are not more than thirty leagues distant.

I did not reach my destination till November, 1735; the season, which began to be severe, increased the fatigues of the voyage, which, except my shipwreck, was one of the most toilsome I have experienced in Canada.

The day we left Chambly, a post about forty leagues from Frederick, we were obliged to sleep out of doors, and during the night there was a fall of snow full a foot deep. The winter came on as it had begun ;



gun; and although we found a house at the post to sleep in, our sufferings were almost as great as if we had been in the open air. The house in which we were lodged was not finished; we were but badly covered from the weather, and the walls, which were of an enormous thickness, had been finished but a few days, and added greatly to the inconveniences we received from the rain and snow. Most of our soldiers were afflicted with the scurvy, and we had all such disorders in our eyes, that we were even fearful we should lose our sight. Our food was not better than our lodging. We found little to eat near the post  
but

but a few partridges, and to procure venifon we were obliged to go as far as lake Sacrement, which was seven or eight leagues off.

In the spring they proceeded to compleat our house, but we chose rather to encamp, during the summer, than to remain any longer therein. Here we were not more at our ease, for we were all visited by the fever, and not one of us could enjoy the pleasures of the season. This situation, I must confess, began to be very disagreeable, when towards the month of August I received an order from my provincial to return to France. The religious

religious who was sent to succeed me was of our province; he arrived at Frederic the 21st of September, 1736, and I departed the same day in the evening. The next day we had a favourable wind, which carried us to point *Au Fer*, about eight leagues from Chambly; but on the 23d we expected to have perished in going down the rapid of St. Teresa: this was the last danger I encountered before I arrived at Quebec, where I expected immediately to embark for France.

Thus you have an abridgment of my peregrinations in the new world. Those who have travelled in this country

country will see I am acquainted with it. The relations of former travellers will inform you of many circumstances which I might have repeated after them; but, in writing my travels, my principal intent was to describe the shipwreck I experienced in my return to France. The circumstances attending it are extremely interesting, and you may prepare to hear a tale of sorrow and woe. All I have to relate will excite your curiosity, and demand your pity; do not be ashamed to bestow it: a good heart is always susceptible of the misfortunes of others. He who does not feel for the misfortunes of his brethren, ought with justice

justice to be deprived of the happiness of human society.

I remained some time at Quebec waiting an opportunity to return to France; in about two months I found one by the king's ship the *Hero*, of which I unfortunately did not proffer, but accepted of the offer from the *Sieur Frenouse*, a Canadian. The connexion between us caused me to accept the place of his chaplain. He was a brave man, whom an experience of forty-six years had rendered very able as a navigator; nor could *Messrs. Pacond* of *Rochelle*, the owners, have entrusted their ship, the *Renown*, in  
better

better hands. The vessel was new, a good sailer, very convenient, of about three hundred tons, and mounted with forty pieces of cannon.

Many gentlemen were desirous of going with us, to enjoy a safe and convenient passage, so that we had fifty-four persons on board the vessel. We sailed the 3d of November, with several other ships, and anchored all together in Saint Patrick's Hole, three leagues from Quebec; the next day we reached the island of Orleans. We endeavoured on the 5th to pass the straits of Orleans, but could not, but were

more successful on the day after, for we passed in company with a brigantine bound to Martinico.— The ships which sailed with us had succeeded in their first attempt; we were therefore without any consort, and anchored at La Prairie, near the isle of Coudres.

The 7th we reached Hare Island and Mathan, where we found a light wind from the north, the baneful effects of which, and particularly in that season of the year, our captain well knew, and confessed to us that we had every thing to fear: he thought proper therefore to bear away in search of anchoring ground,  
and

and some shelter from the tempest with which we were threatened. A short time after we were obliged to wear, and on the 11th of the month, about eight at night, the wind shifted about to the NNW. NE. ENE. E. at last to the SSE. from whence it blew two days. All this time we were beating off the island of Anticosti with reefs in our topsails; but as soon as the wind shifted to the SSE. we steered SE. by E. till the 14th in the morning, when the ship struck, within a quarter of a league of the shore, on a ridge of rocks, about eight leagues from the southern point of Anticosti.



The ship struck so often, that we were fearful every moment she would go to pieces. The weather may be supposed very bad at this season, and our seamen in despair, since none of them could be persuaded to assist in taking in the sails, although their action on the ship would infallibly hasten our destruction. The water poured into the vessel in great abundance; fear had deprived above half our men of their presence of mind; and a general disorder seemed to announce our approaching dissolution.

If it had not been for our gunner, our future situation would have been  
dreadful.

dreadful. He ran to the bread-room, and although the water had already made its way in, he threw a quantity of bread between decks. He thought also that some muskets, a barrel of powder, and a case of cartridges, would be useful to us in case we should escape this danger; he therefore caused all these things to be brought up. His precautions were not useless, and without the assistance of these articles I should never have been preserved to relate this. The wind did not abate, nor the sea diminish; the waves carried away our rudder, and we were obliged to cut away our mizen-mast. We then began to get our

D 3

yawl

yawl (the smallest boat of a merchant ship) into the sea, taking great precaution to keep her at a distance from the side of the ship, for fear she should be stove. The sight of death, and hopes of avoiding it, inspired us with courage; and although we knew we must pass a wretched life, at least for many months, in this island, we thought we should be content to suffer every thing, could we preserve our lives.

After having put our yawl into the water, we got our long-boat into the tackles, in order to embark what we could save, and get clear  
of

of the ship quickly, for fear the sea should beat her against the side of the ship, and destroy her. But 'tis in vain for man to rest on his own prudence when the hand of God lays heavy on him. All our efforts were useless. Twenty of us entered the long-boat, and instantly the fore-tackle gave way. Judge of our situation! the long-boat remained suspended by the after-tackle, and of those who were in her many persons fell into the sea, others held by the boat's sides, and some, by means of ropes which hung from the ship's side, got on board her again.

The captain, seeing this accident, ordered the other tackle to be cut or loosened; and the long-boat having regained her position, I jumped into her again to save Messrs. Leveque and Dufresnois, who were nearly drowned. The sea treated our boat so roughly, that the water came in on all sides. Without rudder or sail, in a dreadful storm, a continual rain, the sea raging, and the tide ebbing, what could we look for but approaching destruction! We exerted, however, our efforts to gain an offing; some employed themselves in throwing out the water; we used an oar instead of a rudder: we were in want  
of

of every thing, or every thing went contrary to our intention. Two waves broke over us, and filled the boat with water to our knees; a third would infallibly have sent us to the bottom. Our strength diminished in proportion as we stood more in need of it, and we advanced but slowly, fearing, with great reason, that our boat would founder before we could reach the land. The rain prevented us from distinguishing the place proper for landing; every part we could see appeared very steep, and we beheld nothing before us but death.

I thought it my duty to exhort my companions to put themselves, by an act of contrition, in a proper state to appear before their God. Hitherto I had deferred it for fear of increasing their fears, or abating their courage; but now there was no time to delay, and I did not wish to have to reproach myself with neglect of my duty. Every one betook himself to prayers; and, after the *confiteor* (or confession), I gave them absolution. It was an affecting sight to behold the men labouring to throw out the water, or at the oar; at the same time supplicating God to have pity on them,  
and

and to pardon those sins which might render them unworthy to participate his glory: they seemed at last resigned to death, and waited their fate without a murmur. For my part, I recommended my soul to God, and recited the *miserere* aloud, which they all repeated after me. I saw no longer any hope; the boat was ready to founder; and I had covered my eyes with my gown to avoid seeing the moment of my destruction, when a gust of wind drove us violently on shore.

You cannot imagine with what haste we quitted the boat, but we were not immediately out of danger;



the waves rolled over us, some were struck down by them, and we were all in danger of being carried away; we, however, happily resisted their violence, and got off with swallowing much water.

In this scene of disorder, some one had the presence of mind to seize the headstap of the boat, and keep her from running adrift, without which precaution we had infallibly perished.

Our first care was to return thanks to God for our deliverance from such imminent danger; and indeed, without his providential aid,

it was not possible we should have escaped death. We were now on a sandy point, separated from the body of the island by a river, which ran from a bay a little above where we landed. It was with the greatest difficulty we crossed this river, the depth of which exposed us to danger a third time. As the water ebbed, we were able to fetch what we had in the boat, and bring the articles on shore in the island. This was a great fatigue, but we had no time to lose. We were drenched to the skin, and every thing belonging to us was in the same condition—how then could we possibly make a fire? After a considerable time,

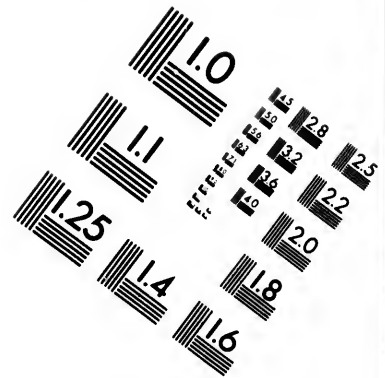
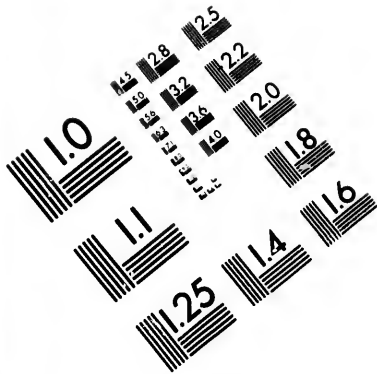
time, however, we succeeded: this was more necessary to us than any thing else; and although it was long since we had taken any nourishment, and that we were hungry, we did not think of satisfying that want until we had warmed ourselves.

About three o'clock in the morning the yawl came on shore with only six men in her; the sea ran so high that they could not venture any more. We went down to her assistance, and took the necessary precautions to draw her on shore without damaging her. She was our only resource, and without her we  
should

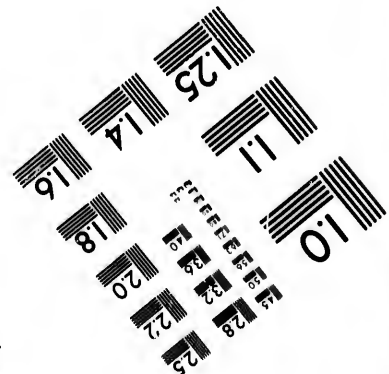
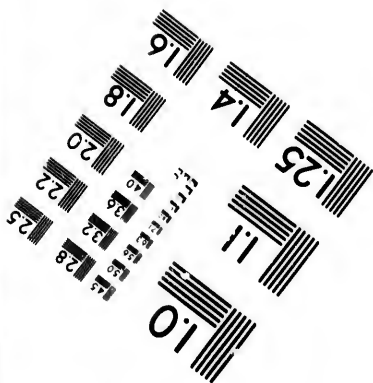
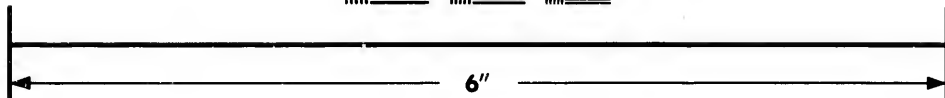
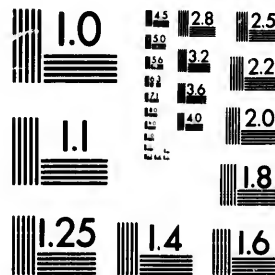
should never have been able to get the provisions which the gunner had saved from the ship, nor the seventeen men who still remained on board.

None of us dared to venture the next day, and we passed the succeeding night very sorrowfully. The fire we had made was insufficient to dry us, and we had nothing to serve as a covering in this rigorous season. The wind appeared to increase, and although the ship was strong, new, and well-built, we had reason to fear that she would not remain whole until next day, and that those who were on  
board





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board would infallibly perish.— About midnight the wind fell, the sea became more calm, and at break of day we saw the ship in the same state we had left her. Some of our seamen went aboard in the boat, and found our men in good health, and that they had passed their time much more agreeably than we had, as they had something to eat and drink, and were under shelter. They put some provisions into the boat, and brought them to us, at a time when hunger began to press us very much.

We then took our repast, consisting of about three ounces of  
meat



meat each, a little broth of some legumes or pulse boiled therein. We found it necessary to be careful, that we might not expose ourselves to a total want of food. We sent a second time to the ship to save the carpenter's tools, some pitch for our long-boat, a hatchet to cut wood, and some sails to make tents. All these things were of great use to us, particularly the sails, for the snow fell that night two feet deep.

On the next day, (November 16), while some went on board the ship in search of provisions, others laboured to get the long-boat on shore, and succeeded by help of a double

double tackle. The bad condition she was in convinced us how near we had been perishing, and we could not conceive how it was possible she could have reached the shore. We immediately set about repairing her. The mizen-yard of the ship served for a keel. We made a new stern-post with a piece of timber we cut in the forest; the two planks we wanted for the bottom we got from the ship, and in truth we repaired her as well as it was possible in our situation.

While we were thus employed on our boat we made but one meal in twenty-four hours, and that as moderate

moderate as I have before described. Prudence required this of us; we had only two months provisions in the ship, which is the usual quantity they lay in for a voyage from Quebec to France. All our biscuit was spoiled; and of our other stores, one half had been either consumed or spoiled in the eleven days we had been at sea: so that we had not more than five weeks provisions. This calculation, or, if you please, this reflection, was a melancholy one, for there was no appearance we should be able to quit this desert spot in that period.

The

The ships which pass in the neighbourhood of this island keep too far off to see any signals that we might have made ; besides, the season was so far advanced that we could not expect any until next spring.

I really began to despair ; my spirits failed ; cold, snow, frost and illness, seemed to unite to increase our sufferings ; and we were sinking under the pressure of so many evils. Our ship became inaccessible by the ice which formed round her ; the cold caused a perpetual inclination to sleep, and our tents were insufficient

ficient to protect us from the immense quantity of snow, which fell this year to the height of six feet: many of our companions were already attacked by a fever: such unhappy circumstances obliged us to think of extricating ourselves from them.

We knew that at Mingan, a post situated on the northern shore of the river, or the land of the Eskimaux, there were always some Frenchmen wintered to kill sea wolves for oil. From them we were sure of procuring succour; but the difficulty was, how we should reach that place in such a season; all the small  
rivers

rivers were already frozen; the snow already covered the earth to the height of three feet, and was daily increasing: the voyage was long, considering the season of the year and our situation, for we had forty leagues to run to double the north-west point of the island, afterwards to descend the river St. Lawrence a little way, and then twelve leagues to run across the northern branch of that river.

We resolved, however, at least to attempt to surmount these obstacles, for in our present situation we could not meet with any thing more dreadful: but a reflection made us pause

pause for a time. It was not possible that we could all embark at once for Mingan; half the company must necessarily remain here, and those who went would think themselves happy far above the rest, notwithstanding the danger to which they exposed themselves.

We had, however, no other choice to make, and we must either resolve to stay here and perish together in less than six weeks, or to separate ourselves for a time. I informed every one that the least delay would infallibly defeat our plan; that, while we were hesitating, the badness of the weather increased, and

and that we had but a very small stock of provisions. I added, that undoubtedly every individual would be unwilling to remain where we were; but at the same time I represented our separation as absolutely necessary, and I hoped that the Lord would dispose the hearts of some of them to let their brethren depart in search of food: lastly, I entreated them to dry and prepare the ornaments of the chapel; and that, to draw on us the blessing of the Holy Ghost, I would celebrate mass on the 26th; and that I was confident our prayers would procure us the effect we wished. Every one applauded my proposition, and I  
said



said mafs accordingly ; at which time twenty-four men offered voluntarily to remain, on condition that those who went would swear on the Evangelists to send succour as soon as they arrived at Mingan.

I informed my companions that I was ready to remain with these twenty-four, and that I would endeavour to encourage them to wait patiently the promised relief.—Every body strenuously opposed my design ; and, in order to dissuade me, said, that as I was acquainted with the language of the country, I must accompany those who went in the boats, that in case Messrs.

de Frenoufe and Senneville, who alfo fpoke the language, fhould die or fall fick, I might ferve as an interpreter to any Indians they might find. Thofe who were to remain particularly preffed me to go, as they knew I was incapable of breaking my word, and did not doubt but that, on my arrival at Mingan, my firft care would be to fend them affiftance. Not but that thofe who were to go, were very well difpofed to fend back the boat as foon as poffible, but they evidently thought that they might place more confidence in the faith of a prieft than any other individual.

When

When every thing was arranged, I exhorted those who were to be left at the place of shipwreck to have patience. I told them that the surest means to draw on them the favours of heaven, was to avoid giving themselves up to despair, and to put their trust wholly in Providence; that they should employ themselves in some constant exercise to avoid sickness, and being too much discouraged; that they should use the provisions we left with them prudently, although I hoped to be able to send them relief before they wanted, but that it was better to have some left, than to risk a famine. After I had given them this

E 2                      advice,

advice, those who were to depart began to prepare what they wanted; and on the 27th we embraced our companions, who wished us a happy voyage. On our side we expressed our desire to be able soon to extricate them from their difficulties. We were far from thinking this would be the last time we should see them. Our parting was extremely affecting; and the tears which attended it seemed a kind of foreboding of what was to happen.

Thirteen embarked in the yawl, and twenty-seven in the long-boat: we departed in the afternoon, and rowed about three leagues, but could  
not

not find any landing-place, consequently were obliged to pass the night at sea, where we experienced a cold which is not to be described.

The next day we did not make so much way, but we slept on shore; and during part of the night a vast quantity of snow fell on our bodies. The 29th we still had contrary winds, and were obliged by the snow, which continued to fall in abundance, to go on shore early. The 30th the bad weather obliged us to stop at nine o'clock in the morning; we landed and made a good fire, and dressed some peas,

by which many of our people were much incommoded.

The 1st of December the wind prevented our embarking, and as our seamen complained of weakness, and said they could no longer labour at the oar, we dressed and ate a little meat, after having also drank the broth: this was the first time since our departure we had fared so well; on the other days we had subsisted on dry and raw salt fish, or else some paste made of meal and water. The second day in the morning, the wind having shifted to the south-east, we sailed, and made good way; about noon

we

we joined the yawl, and had our meal all together. Our joy was extreme to find that the good weather continued, and that the wind was more favourable; but this joy was of short duration, and gave place to a dreadful consternation. After our meal we proceeded on our voyage; the yawl went faster than the long-boat with the oars, but we sailed better than she did. Towards the evening the wind rose and had shifted a little; we therefore thought we should endeavour to double a point we had in sight, and made a signal to the yawl to follow us; but she was too close to the land, and we lost sight of her.

At the point we met with a dreadful sea, and although the wind was not very high, we could not double it but with great difficulty, and after having shipped abundance of water; this alarmed us for the yawl, which was close to the land, where the sea always breaks more than at a distance; in short, she was so severely handled, that she perished—a circumstance, as you will hear, we did not know till the next spring. As soon as we had passed the point we endeavoured to land, but the night was too far advanced, and we could not at first find a place; the sea was for near two leagues full of sharp and high rocks,



rocks, but at last seeing a sandy bay, we filled all our sails, and landed safely without being very wet. We immediately lighted a great fire, in order to direct the yawl where we were; but this precaution was useless, as she was then wrecked.

Having eaten a little of our paste, every one wrapped himself up in his blanket, and passed the night near the fire. About ten o'clock the weather grew bad, and the snow continued falling till the next day, which the fire melted, and so much incommoded us, that we chose

rather to expose ourselves to the cold than to sleep in the water.

Towards midnight the wind was so violent that our long-boat was driven from her anchors, and ran on shore, but was not bulged. The two men who were in her, being asleep, awakened, and called loudly for assistance. We all ran down; the captain and I employed ourselves in throwing what we could of her lading on shore, which the others took up and carried as far as they thought necessary out of the flux of the sea; but the sea became so violent, that in its ebb it would  
infallibly

infally have carried away the whole, if our companions had not removed them three different times. This was not sufficient; we were obliged to haul up our vessel, and prevent her also from being carried away. The trouble we had to get her on shore is inconceivable, which we did not effect till near ten o'clock the next morning. We found she had suffered greatly, and would require considerable repairs. This we postponed till the morrow, and proceeded to make fires to dry our cloaths; afterwards we ate a small quantity, to restore us after the fatigues we had experienced during the whole night. In the morning

the carpenters, and such as were in a condition to assist, worked to replace every thing in a proper state; and a party of our people were employed in searching after the yawl, but without success, and it was in vain for us to continue several days in such a place as this to look for her. On the day before we departed we killed two foxes, which enabled us to save our provisions. In our situation we were glad to avail ourselves of any thing, and the dread of perishing with hunger induced us not to omit any circumstance that would tend to prolong life.

On the 7th of the month at day-break we sailed with a light and favourable wind, which enabled us to make good way. About ten o'clock we ate our foxes, and a few hours after the sky overcast, and the wind increasing as the tide rose, we found it necessary to search for a harbour, but could not find any; we were therefore obliged to keep out to sea, and carry a press of sail. As the night advanced, a storm of rain mingled with hail came on suddenly, attended with darkness, and the wind raged so violently that we could with difficulty steer the boat, which had already received too many strokes to be in a condition

dition for such weather. We were, however, obliged to take our chance.

In the midst of this danger we were driven into a bay, where the wind still tormented us, and we could not possibly finding a landing-place. Our anchor would not bring us up; the weather grew worse every minute, and our boat being driven violently against some sunken rocks, we began to fear our last hour was come.

We exerted all our endeavours, and threw a part of the boat's lading into the sea, to retard our destruction

tion for a short period. This was scarcely accomplished before we found ourselves surrounded with ice; a circumstance which increased our alarms, as the pieces of ice were furiously agitated, and some of them struck against the boat. I am not able to tell you how or where we were driven, but I do assure you the circumstances which agitated us during this night are not to be expressed; darkness augmented the horror of our situation; every stroke of the sea seemed to announce approaching death. I exhorted every one not to despair of Providence; at the same time to prepare themselves to appear and render an account

count

count before God of a life which had been granted to us only to serve him, who was the master, and entitled to take it away when he pleased.

At last the day appeared, and we endeavoured to get between the rocks and the shore, where, when we succeeded, we found ourselves a little more at our ease. Every one of us conceived ourselves escaped from the jaws of death, and returned thanks to that All-powerful Hand that had preserved us from such imminent danger.

With every effort we could make we could not come near the shore,  
the



the water was too shallow for the boats ; we therefore were forced to cast anchor, and in order to get on shore were obliged to wade through the water, in some places as high as our waists, and every where as high as the knees. We carried on shore our kettle, and some meal to dress. After having taken some nourishment we dried our cloaths, with intent to depart next day.

The cold increased so much during the night that the bay was frozen over, and our boat fast on all sides ; we vainly hoped that some gust of wind would break the ice away, for the cold increased every day.

day. The ice continued to grow stronger, and we had no other course to take but to land the few things which had not been thrown into the sea, and to get our provisions round us. We proceeded to make cabins or huts, and covered them with branches of the pine tree. The captain and I were pretty well acquainted with the method of building these huts, and therefore ours was the most convenient. The seamen built one for themselves near us, and we constructed a place to stow our provisions, into which no one could enter but in presence of all the others. This was a necessary precaution, and to prevent  
such

such suspicions as might have attached to those who had the care of them, and to prevent any one consuming in a few days what ought to support so many persons for a long period.

The furniture of our apartments consisted of an iron pot, in which they formerly used to heat pitch, but now served us for a kettle; we had only one hatchet, and were even in want of a stone to sharpen it: to preserve us against this severe cold we had only our common cloaths and blankets half burned. Any one of these failing, our destruction was inevitable. Without  
the

the pot it was not possible to dress any thing to support us; without the hatchet we could not procure any wood to make our fire; and if deprived of our blankets, bad as they were, there was no possibility of supporting the excessive cold of the nights.

This state, you will say, was very dreadful, and could not possibly be worse. Here you must excuse me; for although it may appear incredible to you, yet our distress was really constantly augmenting, and I have many things to relate before I shall have described the misery to which we were reduced.

Our

Our only resource was prolonging our lives till the end of the month of April, and to wait until the ice was dispersed, or melted, that we might be enabled to complete our voyage in our boat. The chance of any succour reaching us in this place was so little, that we could not even flatter ourselves with any such hope. In this conjuncture it became necessary to examine carefully the state of our provisions, and to regulate the distribution in such a manner that they might last the necessary time. We therefore settled our allowance in the following manner:—in the morning we boiled two pounds of meal in melted snow,

snow, to make either a pudding or porridge : in the evening we dressed about an equal quantity of meat in the same manner. As we were seventeen, each person was consequently allowed about four ounces of nourishment a day. We had no bread, or any other eatable except a few peas, which we boiled once a week instead of meat ; and although we had only about a spoonful each, this was in truth our best meal. Fixing the quantity of food we were to be allowed was not enough, it was also necessary to regulate our employment. Myself, Leger, and Basil, undertook to cut all the wood that should be wanted, let the weather

ther be good or bad : others undertook to carry it home, and others to make paths in the snow in the way we must go into the forest.

You will perhaps be surpris'd that I should undertake to cut wood, as an employment not proper for me, and to which my strength was inadequate. In one respect you are right, but if you reflect that violent exertions open the pores, and give a vent to many humours which would be dangerous if they remained in the blood, you will perhaps conclude with me, that to this exercise I am indebted for my preservation. I always took care to labour till I  
was

was fatigued, when I felt myself heavy or inclined to a fever, and particularly when I found myself affected by any bad air. We therefore went every day into the woods, and notwithstanding the efforts of our friends to clear away the snow, we often sunk up to the waist in it. This was not the only inconvenience we experienced in this business; the trees within our reach were full of branches, and so covered with snow, that on the first stroke of the hatchet, the man who gave the stroke was knocked down by what fell on him. We all in our turns experienced this treatment, and sometimes we have been  
served



served so two or three times successively ; we, however, continued our work, and when by repeated strokes we had cleared the tree of spars, we cut it down, chopped it in pieces, and every one returned to the hut loaded : then our companions went in search of the rest which we had cut, or for as much as we wanted for the day. We found this business very fatiguing, but it was absolutely necessary ; and although our exertions were extreme, we had every thing to fear if we relaxed in our assiduity : the labour was also daily increasing, for as we cut down the trees, we were obliged to go further in search of others, and consequently

frequently to clear a longer path : unhappily also our strength decayed as our labour increased. Some branches of pine trees, thrown down without order, served us for beds ; the vermin tormented us, for we had no change of linen ; the smoke and snow caused us inconceivable pains in our eyes, and, to complete our misfortunes, we were troubled with a costiveness, and at the same time an almost continued *diabetes*. I must leave to physicians the task of examining how those two inconveniences could arise. Had we known the cause, it would have been of no service to us ; and it is useless to discover the source of an evil  
when

when we have no remedy in our power.

The 24th of December we dried the ornaments of our chapel, and as we had still a little wine, I caused it to be thawed, and on Christmas-day celebrated mass. At the conclusion I pronounced a short discourse, to exhort my flock to patience. I drew a parallel between the sufferings of the Saviour of the World and their own, and concluded by recommending them to offer up their prayers to the Lord, assuring them that such offerings would give them a title to a recompense. The evils we feel are much

better explained than those we see others suffer. My discourse had the effect I expected; every one resumed courage, and resigned themselves patiently to suffer what should please God to inflict, either to call us to himself, or relieve us from danger.

On the 1st of January a heavy rain fell all day; and as we could not secure ourselves from it, we were obliged to sleep in the wet, and a severe northerly wind blowing in the night, froze us up in our cabin, but broke the ice in the bay, and drove it to sea with our long-boat. A man of the name of Foucault informed

informed us of this dreadful news by a loud cry ; and when we had sought every where to find her without effect, you may judge of our consternation. This accident was the severest of our sufferings, and deprived us of every hope of seeing an end to them. I was sensible of its consequences, and beheld every one giving way to despair. Some proposed that we should eat up all our provisions at once, and then quietly lay ourselves down and die : others refused to work ; and, to justify their refusal, said, that it was needless to prolong their troubles, since, to all appearance, they could not avoid death. What a situation !

the hardest hard heart must surely be affected with it; the tears flow while I relate it, and you, my brother, are too much awake to the misfortunes of others to suppose that mine will not melt you.

I found it necessary to exert all my abilities to combat the resolutions of my companions; the best reasons I urged seemed to make them more impatient, and to feel with greater poignancy their melancholy situation. That mildness, with which I hoped to be able to turn them from their intentions, not appearing to produce any effect, I assumed that authority my function  
gave

gave me, and told them with an energy that seemed to surprise them, “ that the Almighty assuredly was “ incensed against us, and that he “ measured the evils with which he “ afflicted us according to the crimes “ of which we had been formerly “ guilty ; that these evil deeds had “ undoubtedly been enormous, since “ the punishment thereof had been “ so severe ; but that our despair “ was our greatest sin, and that “ if we did not soon repent thereof, “ would not be pardoned. How “ do you know, my brethren,” said I, “ if you are not near the end “ of your repentance ? The time of “ the most severe sufferings is often

“ that of the greatest mercies : do  
“ not therefore render yourselves un-  
“ worthy thereof by your mur-  
“ murs. The first duty of a Chrif-  
“ tian is implicitly to submit to the  
“ decree of his Creator, and your  
“ rebel hearts resist him : you lose  
“ in one instant the fruit of those  
“ ills which God fends only to  
“ render thofe he deftines to be his  
“ children more worthy of his fa-  
“ vours : you now meditate self-  
“ murder, and, to avoid fome tem-  
“ porary fufferings, you do not fear  
“ rifking eternal torments. Pur-  
“ fue, therefore, your criminal in-  
“ tentions ; accomplifh your horrid  
“ defigns ; I have done my duty,  
“ and



“ and you must determine whether  
“ you will be lost for ever! I  
“ hope, however,” added I, “ there  
“ are among you some souls so at-  
“ tached to the law of their God,  
“ as to respect my remonstrances,  
“ and that they will join with me  
“ in offering him their labours, and  
“ will ask of him strength to sup-  
“ port him through them.”

When I had finished, I was re-  
tiring, but they all stopped me, and  
entreated me to pardon the state of  
despair into which they had fallen,  
and, shedding a torrent of tears, af-  
firmed me that they would no longer  
offend Heaven by their murmurs

and impatience, but would redouble their efforts to preserve a life which they held of God alone, and of which they were not masters. Instantly every one resumed his ordinary occupation; I and my two companions repaired to the woods, and when we returned, the others went out to bring home what we had cut. When they were all assembled, I told them, that, as I had wine for three or four masses, I would celebrate one to request of the Holy Spirit that strength of which we stood in need; and as the 5th of January was a fine day, I performed the ceremony of the mass thereon. I had scarcely finished, when.

when M. Vaillant and the ship's steward, named Foucault, a strong and able man, informed us of a resolution they had taken to go in search of the long-boat. I praised their zeal in exposing themselves thus for the safety of their companions. Praise is welcome in any state of life, and self-love never quits us till we die. In less than two hours after these two men had left us, we saw them return with such an air of satisfaction as foretold they had good news to communicate; nor was our conjecture false, for M. Vaillant told us, that after he and Foucault had travelled for about an hour, they perceived,

on the side of the wood, a little hut, and two bark canoes ; that, on entering the hut, they had found some fat of the sea wolf and a hatchet, which they brought away with them. Impatience to impart this good news to their companions prevented them from further search. I was in the woods when they returned, and the Sieur Senneville ran to inform me of the discovery these gentlemen had made. I hastened my return to the hut, and entreated the two gentlemen to tell me what they had seen, and every word infused hope and joy into my mind. I seized this opportunity to exalt the cares of Providence towards those

those who do not despair; and I exhorted every one to return thanks to God for the favour now bestowed on us. The nearer we are to danger, the more gratitude we feel to our deliverer. A few days ago we thought ourselves abandoned without resource, and when we despaired of receiving any help, we learned that there were some Indians in the island, and that towards the end of March, when they returned to their huts in search of their canoes, they might assist us.

This discovery renewed the hopes of those who had made it, and they set off the next day full of that confidence

fidence which a beginning of success inspires. They had hopes of finding our long-boat again, and were not disappointed; for having travelled a little further than they did the day before, they saw her at a distance from the land, and in their return found and brought away with them a trunk full of cloaths, which we had thrown into the water the night before the boat was on the rocks.

On the 10th, although the weather was extremely cold, we all went to endeavour to get our long-boat into a place of safety; but we found her full of ice, and the ice  
about

about her made her appear like a little mountain—in short, we saw it was impossible to get her to the shore: a hundred men would scarcely have succeeded, and many would have been in danger of perishing in the attempt. This event gave us much uneasiness; but it was probable that the Indians, to whom the canoes belonged, had some other embarkation with which they had come into the island, and of which we hoped to avail ourselves. We were therefore returning to our home, but had scarcely gone fifty paces, when the cold seized M. Foucault, so as to prevent Lim from walking: we were obliged to carry him to  
our

our cabin, where he soon after expired.

On the 23d our carpenter expired from the fatigue he had undergone ; he had time to confess himself, and died a true Christian. Although many of us were troubled with swelled legs, we did not lose any more until the 11th of February. The expectation of supporting life till the end of March kept up our spirits, and we already fancied we saw our deliverers approach. But it was not the will of God : his designs are impenetrable, and although events turn out contrary to our expectation, we cannot, without blasphemy,



phemy, accuse him of injustice. What we call evil, with him is often designed as a blessing; and whether he rewards or punishes, whether he tries us by adversity or prosperity, we equally owe him our thanks.

Our captain, M. de Frenoufe, died on the 16th, after receiving extreme unction. A man of the name of John Boffeman followed him in a few hours, confessing himself, and expiring with great resignation. Towards the evening of the same day, a young man named Girard paid the last debt to nature. A disorder in his legs arose from warming

warming them too near the fire, and made him feel his approaching end. I assisted him in his last moments, and his repentance of his faults makes me hope he has obtained pardon.

Our gunner fell into a swoon the same night, from which he never recovered. Lastly, a man named Robert Boffeman was attacked by the disorder which had carried off the others. He was a Calvinist, and I wished him to abjure his religion, but I confess it was a difficult task to make him a Catholic. Happily the goodness of the cause I fought supplied the place of those talents

talents necessary to support it. I must confess that the reformed are well instructed, and I was twenty times staggered by the reasonings of this man. What a pity that the foundation of Calvinism should be laid on a false principle—I will explain myself clearly, what a pity that the Calvinists are not of the Roman communion; with what success would they defend a good cause, who can so vigorously support a bad one.

At last this man comprehended me; and being desirous of avoiding the danger of dying in any other  
belief

belief than ours, on the 24th of February he abjured his religion, repeated the profession of faith, and went to receive his reward in the other world. As these men died, we laid them in the snow near our hut. Undoubtedly it was not prudent to deposit our dead so near us, but we wanted both spirits and strength to carry them farther off; besides, our situation did not allow us to attend to every thing, and we had either no apprehensions of the danger arising from the corruption they might cause in the air, or rather, we thought that the excessive coldness of the air would prevent that

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that corruption from producing those effects which were to be feared at another season.

So many deaths in so short a space of time alarmed us all. However unhappy mankind may be, they view with horror that moment which will relieve them from their cares, if it also deprives them of life. Some of our companions regretted the loss of their wives and children, and wept in contemplating the state of misery into which their deaths would plunge their families; others complained of Heaven in depriving them of life at the moment when they began to enjoy

enjoy

enjoy it; others, sensible to the charms of friendship, attached to their country, and destined for agreeable and advantageous establishments, poured forth such lamentations as it was not possible to hear without shedding tears: every word they uttered pierced my heart, and I had scarcely strength enough to comfort them; I mingling my tears with theirs, as I could not refuse them that comfort, or condemn them for complaining. The latter would have been dangerous, and it appeared to me better to let the first emotion of their reflections pass away. The objects they regretted did not render them culpable,

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pable, and why should I condemn their grief? To impose silence on an occasion in which insensibility would be blameable, would have been to reflect on human nature.

The situation in which we now were could scarcely be rendered more unhappy; to be approaching death ourselves; to see our friends dying, without ability to assist them; to be in doubt respecting the fate of thirteen of our company who were in the yawl when she was wrecked; and to be almost certain that the twenty-four we left on the place of shipwreck were in as unhappy a state as ourselves; to be  
badly

badly fed, badly cloathed, fatigued, diseased in our legs, eat up by vermin, and continually blinded either by the snow or smoke—such was our wretched state. Every one of us was an image of death, and we trembled when looking at each other. What passed in my own mind justified the lamentations of my companions. The more violent our grief is, the shorter is its duration, and expression is denied to heavy misfortunes rather than light ones.

As soon as I saw them absorbed in that silence which usually follows the flood of tears occasioned by any misfortune,



misfortune, and which is the sure mark of excessive grief, I endeavoured to comfort them, and addressed them nearly as follows :

“ My dear children, I cannot  
“ condemn your lamentations, and  
“ God will doubtless hear them fa-  
“ vourably, for we have often in  
“ our misfortunes experienced his  
“ goodness. Our boat preserved  
“ on the night of our shipwreck,  
“ the resolution of twenty of our  
“ companions who have devoted  
“ themselves for our preservation,  
“ and the discovery of the two  
“ Indian canoes, are circumstances  
“ which evince the protection which

“ God has granted to us. He be-  
“ stows his blessings only by de-  
“ grees ; and, before he wholly re-  
“ lieves us, expects we should ren-  
“ der ourselves worthy, by a due  
“ resignation to the evils he has  
“ thought proper to inflict. Do  
“ not despair of his goodness, and  
“ he will never abandon those who  
“ submit to his will. If God does  
“ not instantly release us, he has,  
“ however, conducted our friends  
“ to a spot where the canoes assure  
“ us we shall soon find a deliver-  
“ ance. By the help of these ca-  
“ noes, and the approach of the  
“ month of March, when the In-  
“ dians return, we may rest assured  
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“ the time of our deliverance will  
“ not long be delayed.”

I then fell on my knees, and recited such prayers as became our situation and wants, in which every one joined, each appearing to forget his misfortunes for a moment. We remained after this pretty quiet until the 5th of March, beholding, with joy, the time of our deliverance draw near: but God was pleased to afflict us still further, and put our patience to further proofs.

The 6th of March being Ash-  
Wednesday, about two in the morn-

ing a heavy snow, driven by a violent northerly wind, brought our misfortunes to their height. The snow fell in such immense quantities as soon to fill our cabin, and oblige us to take shelter in that belonging to the seamen, into which the snow came in also very fast; but as it was larger, we had more space: our fire was put out, and we had no means to light it again; and, to keep ourselves warm, we had no other resource but to lay all together, and as close as we could. We therefore removed into the seamen's cabin in the morning, carrying the remains of a small raw ham, part of which we ate as soon as we entered:

entered: we afterwards removed the snow into a corner of the cabin, and extended the large blanket on the ground, under which we all laid ourselves, and the tatters of the small blankets defended us better from the snow than from the cold. We remained in this state, without fire and victuals, or swallowing any thing but snow, until Saturday morning.

I then took a resolution, notwithstanding the cold, to venture out, and to endeavour to get a little wood, and meal to make some paste. Our lives were at stake if we did not seek some succour against

cold and hunger. In the three days and nights we had passed in the seamen's cabin, four or five of the crew had died with their legs and arms entirely frozen, and we were happy in escaping from the like disaster, for the cold was so severe on those days, that the stoutest man would have been struck dead had he quitted the hut for ten minutes. You may judge from what I am now going to relate: on Saturday the weather was somewhat milder; I determined to go out, and Leger, Basile, and Foucault followed me; we were not more than a quarter of an hour employed in getting the meal, and yet Basile and Foucault  
had

had their hands and feet frozen, and died, as you will see, a few days after.

It was not possible for us to reach the woods, as the snow had rendered them inaccessible, and we must have risked our destruction if we had endeavoured to remove that obstacle; we were therefore obliged to eat our paste cold—each of us had about three ounces, and were in danger of paying for this little relief with our lives; for, during the whole night, we were tormented with such excessive thirst, and felt such burning heats, as made us

think we were every moment going to be consumed.

Sunday, the 10th, Messrs. Tuft, Leger, and I, took the opportunity of some fine weather to go in search of some wood. We were the only persons who were able to walk; but it was a miracle that the cold we endured, and the fatigue we underwent in removing the snow, did not reduce us to the same condition with the others: happily we were enabled to resist both, and we brought home some wood, made a fire, and with snow and a little meal we made a clear porridge, which quenched our thirst a little.

All



All the wood we were able to bring was consumed by eight o'clock in the evening, and the night was so cold, that in the morning M. Vaillant, the father, was found dead. This accident made some of us propose to return to our own cabin, which was smaller, and consequently warmer than that of the seamen's. No more snow fell, nor was there any appearance that there would be. Notwithstanding our weakness, we undertook to clear our old abode from the snow and ice which filled it, and we brought some fresh branches of the fir tree to make our bed; we carried in also some wood, and made large fires both within

and without to warm it on all sides. After these operations, which greatly fatigued us, we went in search of our companions. M. de Senneville and the younger Vaillant had their legs and arms frozen, and we were obliged to carry them. Messrs. Le Vasseur, Basile, and Foucault, who were less afflicted than the others, removed without much help; we laid them on the branches we had prepared, from whence none of them were ever removed till after their deaths.

On the 17th, Basile lost his senses, and died a few days after. Foucault, who was of a strong constitution

stitution and young, suffered violently ; the agonies he experienced in struggling with death made us all tremble, and I never beheld such a dreadful spectacle. I endeavoured to acquit myself of my duty on these occasions, and I hope, with the divine blessing, that my cares of the dying were not useless to their salvation.

Our provisions began to be exhausted: we had no more meal, and there remained only about ten pounds of peas ; we had only about seven pounds of candles, the same quantity of bacon, and a small ham which did not weigh more than

three pounds. It became therefore necessary to look for some other means of subsistence. Leger and I, for M. Furst, our second captain, was not in a state to go out, went in search of shell fish at low water; the weather was tolerable, and we waded through the water for two hours as high as our knees. At last, on a sand bank, we found a species of oyster with a plain shell, and carried as many home as we could; they were good—and every time the weather and tide permitted, we went in search of such kind of food; but we had like to have paid dear for it, for our legs and hands swelled, and were nearly frozen.

I was

I was fully sensible of the danger in attending this kind of fishing too often—but what could we do?—we must live, or rather drive away death for a time.

Our sick grew worse every day ; the gangrene, or mortification, took place in their legs, and as no one could dress them, I undertook that office. It was my duty to give an example of that charity which is the foundation of our holy religion ; I however hesitated some moments between the merit of fulfilling my obligations, and the danger attending them. God assisted me with resolution to triumph over my repugnance,

pugnance, and I did my duty ; and although the time in which I was employed in dressing their wounds was to me the most distressing of the whole day, I never slackened in that duty towards them. When I explain the nature of their wounds, you will judge whether the reluctance I felt at first to dress them was without reason, or rather if it was not excusable. I was, however, well rewarded for my trouble ; the gratitude of the poor sick men was inconceivable. “ What,” said one, “ shall you expose yourself to death to preserve our lives?—leave us to our misfortunes ; your cares may relieve, but they can  
“ never

“ never cure us.”—“ Retire,” said another, “ and do not deprive those  
“ who are not to die of the consolation of having you with them:  
“ only assist in putting us into a  
“ state to appear before God, and  
“ render an account of our days ;  
“ fly therefore the infected air  
“ which is around us.”

You may naturally suppose that these kind entreaties attached me the more to them ; they augment the pleasure we feel in doing our duty, and increase our strength and resolution to perform it.

I soon

I soon saw that our sick men must inevitably die, and they were assured of it themselves ; and although they were reconciled, I did not think myself dispensed from assisting them in their last moments. I prayed with them morning and evening, and endeavoured to confirm them in their submission to the will of heaven. “ Offer up your sufferings,” said I, “ to Jesus Christ, and they  
“ will render you worthy of the  
“ fruit of the blood he has shed  
“ for the human race: he was a  
“ perfect model of that patience  
“ which I admire in you ; your  
“ exile is nearly finished: what  
“ thanks

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“ thanks do you not owe him to  
“ have furnished you, by this ship-  
“ wreck, with the surest means of  
“ reaching the port of your salva-  
“ tion. True, my friends, you  
“ leave behind you wives and chil-  
“ dren who look up to you for  
“ support ; but trust in God, he is  
“ a good father, who never abandons  
“ his children ; and rest assured  
“ that, in calling you to him, he  
“ will not forget that you leave  
“ behind you families who require  
“ his cares.”

The poor dying men could only  
answer by assuring me that they  
put their whole trust in God, and  
thought

thought of those they had left behind, only to recommend them to his care and protection. When I had finished speaking to them of spiritual things, I attended to the dressing of their wounds. To clean them I had not any thing but urine, and I covered them with some pieces of linen which I dried for that purpose; and when I removed these they brought away part of the flesh with them, which, from its corrupted state, diffused an infectious air even without side the cabin.

In ten or twelve days there remained nothing of their legs but the bones; their feet fell off, and their

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their hands were wholly void of flesh. The infection was so great, that, when I was dressing the wounds, I was obliged to go into the open air almost every minute to avoid being suffocated. God is my witness I do not exaggerate, and that their situation was more dreadful than I am able to describe. Expression would fail me were I to endeavour to describe the wretched situation in which I then was.

On the 1st of April Leger went towards the place where the Indian canoes were, and I went into the woods about eight o'clock in the morning. I was sitting to rest myself

self on a tree which I had cut down, when I thought I heard a gun fire; but as we had often thought we heard the same noise, and were never able to discover from whence it came, nor what it really was, I did not pay any great attention. About ten I returned to the cabin to ask M. Furst to assist me in bringing home the wood I had cut. I told him what I had heard, and looked at the same time to see if M. Leger was returning. We had gone hardly two hundred paces when I perceived several persons: I ran to meet them, and M. Furst ran back to carry this happy news to our sick. When I was  
near

near enough to distinguish objects, I saw an Indian and his wife, whom M. Leger was conducting. I spoke to the man, and he asked several questions, which I answered. At the sight of our hut he was much surpris'd, and greatly affected at the state to which we were reduced. He promis'd us to return the next day, and that he would hunt in the mean time, and bring us the game he should kill.

We pass'd the night in expectation that he would perform his promise, and in returning thanks to God for the succour he had sent us. The day appear'd, but our hopes were

were disappointed; the morning past away, and the Indian did not appear. Some flattered themselves he would come in the afternoon; for my part I suspected the real cause of his absence, and proposed that we should go to his hut, and ask the reason why he did not keep his word, and, if he hesitated in his answer, compel him to discover the place where the vessel was in which he had crossed into the island. We proceeded; but judge of our surprise when we came to the spot! we found neither Indian nor canoe; he went off in the night, and we could not possibly discover him.

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To let you into the reason of such conduct, I must inform you, that Indians fear death and sickness more than any other people, and the flight of this savage arose from that fear which is peculiar to his nation; the appearance of our sick men, the dreadful state of their disorders, and the infection of their wounds, had so much alarmed him, that, to avoid any bad consequences, he had broken his word, and changed his place of residence, for fear we should force him to return to our cabin and assist us.

Although this disappointment greatly afflicted us, we should have felt

felt it much more if there had not been a second canoe ; but it was necessary to take some measures to prevent the persons to whom she belonged from going away with her also. We were fearful that the Indian who had played us this trick might inform his companions of the danger there might be in approaching our cabin, and might persuade him to remove his canoe also in the night, and quit our neighbourhood.

These reflections induced us to take away the canoe, and thereby oblige the savage to come to our hut and assist us, however repugnant it

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it might be to his feelings. Without this precaution we must have perished: neither of the opportunities we had to escape would have availed us, and our deaths would have been certain. The canoe we made fast to a tree, so that it was not possible to carry her away without giving us an alarm.

Some days past in expectation of seeing the Indian to whom the canoe belonged, but no one appeared, and during that period of time our three sick men died.

On the 7th, in the evening, M. Le Vasseur was seized with a fainting,

ing, from which he never recovered; and the two others, seeing that even the assistance we expected from the Indian would be useless to them, as they were not in a condition to walk, began to prepare themselves for death.

The younger Vaillant died on the 10th, after having suffered for a month beyond what it is possible to imagine, and his patience was equal to his sufferings; he was only sixteen years of age, and son of M. Vaillant who died the 8th of March. He never complained of the hardship of being snatched out of the world at so early an age, but  
expired

expired with that resignation and courage which characterizes a perfect Christian.

M. Senneville imitated the virtues of M. Vaillant, or rather they served as models to each other—the same afflictions, the same patience, the same resignation. I wish I could repeat correctly what those two young men said to me a few days before their deaths; they made me blush to want that courage to comfort them which they had to suffer. With what respect and confidence did they speak of religion and the mercies of God? In what terms did they express their gratitude?

itude? They certainly possessed the best minds and best hearts of any young men I ever knew.

The latter often requested me to amputate his legs, to prevent the gangrene spreading. You may suppose his request was useless, and I constantly refused. I represented to him that I had no instruments proper for the operation; and that if I was to attempt it, far from easing, it would only augment his pain, without saving his life. He then settled his affairs, wrote to his parents in the most affecting manner, and on the 13th resigned his soul at the age of twenty. He was

a Ca-

a Canadian, son of M. Senneville  
of Montreal.

The death of these three victims to cold and hunger greatly affected me, although their lives may be said to have been burdens to them. I had the affection of a father to them, and they made a suitable return; yet when I reflected that had the Indian returned while they lived, I must have left them alone and destitute in the hut, or have lost the opportunity of getting away, I thought I ought to thank the Lord for having spared me so cruel an alternative, by taking the dying men to himself. Besides, we

had now none of our provisions left, except a small ham which we were afraid to touch, and we contented ourselves with such shell fish as Leger and I could from time to time pick up on the sea side. Our weakness was daily increasing, and we were scarcely able to support ourselves, when I took the resolution to go in search of the Indians whose arrival we expected, and for that purpose to make use of their canoe. To repair it we got some gum from the trees, and with our hatchet made two paddles as well as we could. I knew very well how to paddle, which was a great advantage for the execution of our design,

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design, and even might induce us to venture, in case we could not find any Indians, to cross the river in the canoe. This was our last resource; for, when life is at stake, we willingly run every risk. We were sure that we could exist but a few days longer in this island—in venturing to cross we only risked life, and we might succeed.

On the 26th of April all was ready, we dressed our piece of ham, and first ate the broth, with intention to reserve the meat for our voyage, but in the evening we were so pressed with hunger, that we were obliged to eat the whole.

Next day we did not find any increase of our strength, and we were without resource, and no prospect of finding any in time to preserve us from perishing; we prepared ourselves therefore for death, reciting the litany of the Saints; and throwing ourselves on our knees, I pronounced this prayer:

“ Great God! if 'tis your will  
“ that we meet the same fate with  
“ the forty persons who have per-  
“ rished under our eyes, hasten to  
“ accomplish it; do not permit us  
“ to despair, but call us from the  
“ world in this our present state of  
“ resignation. But, O Lord! if  
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“ our death is now decreed, send  
“ us help, and give us strength  
“ to support, without complaining,  
“ those afflictions which thy justice  
“ has prepared, that we may not  
“ lose in an instant the fruit of that  
“ submission which we have hitherto  
“ manifested for the decrees of thy  
“ providence.”

I had scarcely ended my prayer, when we heard the firing of a musket, which we soon answered, and concluded it was the Indian to whom the canoe belonged: he wanted to know if any of us were alive, and being assured we were by answering his signal, he lighted

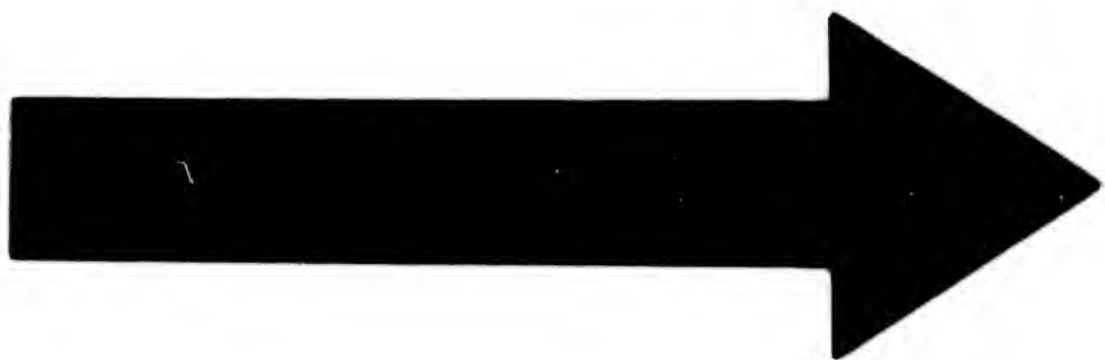
his fire. He did not suppose we were in a state to go to him, and apparently did not wish we should; for, as soon as he perceived us, he hid a part of a bear he had killed in the woods, and ran away.

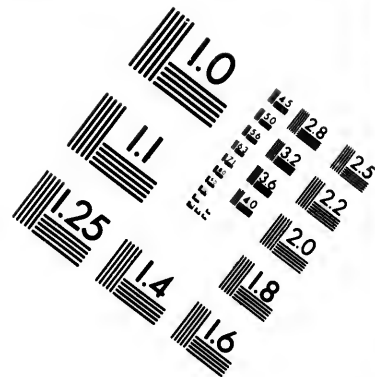
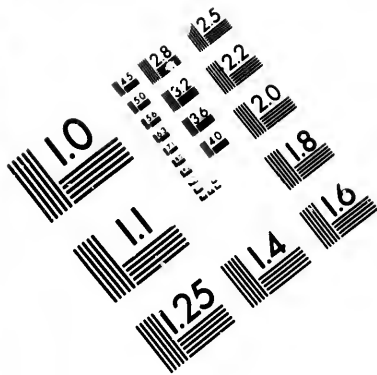
As we were in boots we found much difficulty in getting to his fire, for we were obliged to cross a pretty large river, and which had been thawed a few days. We followed his track, but with incredible fatigue, which would have been useless if the Indian had not been obliged to stop for his child, a boy of about seven years of age, to follow him. This circumstance preserved

served us. We overtook him towards the evening, and he directly asked us if our sick men were dead. This question, which he asked with apparent fear that they were yet alive, convinced us that the other Indian had informed him of our situation, and of the risk he would run by coming near our abode. I did not think proper to answer his question immediately, but, without any circumlocution, pressed him to return back, and give us something to eat. He dared not resist; we were two to one, well armed, and fully resolved not to quit him for a moment. He then confessed he had a bear almost whole, which he was

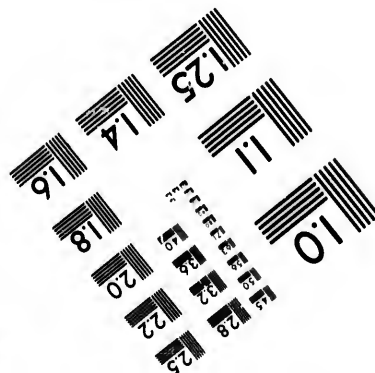
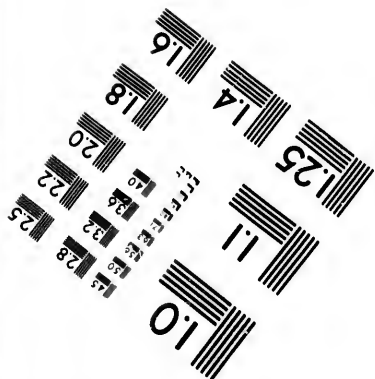
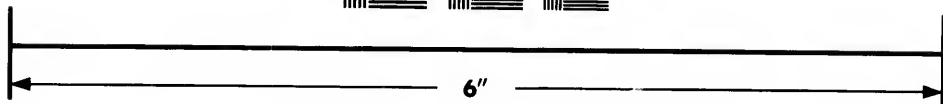
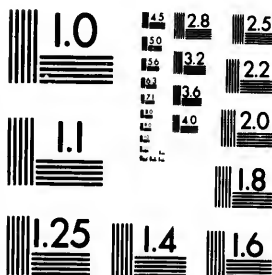
ready to share with us. When we returned to the place where he had hidden the bear, we each of us eat a bit half dressed, and then we made him and his wife eat, and conducted them to the spot where we had left M. Furst. This poor man waited for us with great impatience, and we found him almost exhausted. Judge how great his joy must be, when we informed him that we had got both provisions and help. He eat at first a piece of the bear, and we put the pot on the fire, and kept it there the whole night, taking occasionally some of the broth. We dared not go to sleep, for fear the savage, who would not enter the  
hut,

hut, should run away. As soon as the day appeared, I gave him to understand that he must conduct us to the place where the boat lay which had brought him into this island; and to engage him to do so, I told him we should treat him very ill, if he did not consent speedily. Fear of death set him speedily to work to make a sleigh, or sledge, on which he fixed his canoe, and made signs for Leger and me to draw it. Undoubtedly he wished we should fatigue ourselves, and give up the succour which would cost us so dear. We might easily have compelled him to drag the canoe himself, but I did not





**IMAGE EVALUATION  
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



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not think that would be proper ; as it was necessary to humour him, and only take such precautions with him as not to be made his dupes.

I desired the Indian and his wife to walk before us, under pretence of clearing the way ; but I did not confine my precautions to them only ; I told them I thought the child would be too much fatigued in walking, and would put him into the canoe, as it would be a pleasure to us to relieve him.

The heart of a parent is every where the same ; there is no one who does not conceive himself under  
an

an obligation for the service done to his child, and accepts it with pleasure. Thus the boy became a hostage to us for the fidelity of his father. We walked in this way, for above a league, either in snow, in water, or upon ice; our fatigue was extreme, but hopes of the relief we should find supported and gave us courage. We could not, however, possibly continue to drag this canoe, and were nearly exhausted, when the Indian, touched with our situation, took it on his shoulder, carried it to the sea, and put his wife and child on board. As the canoe could hold only four persons, and consequently there was but one of us  
three

three who could embark, the question now was, which should be the man? I offered to stay, and to let Messrs. Furst and Leger agree between themselves which should go. Each of them wished to have the preference, and were fearful of losing this opportunity of avoiding an unhappy end. While they were disputing, the Indian made signs for me to come forward, and told me he guessed the cause of dispute between my two companions, and that he would take none but me. Without giving time for reply, he pulled me into the canoe, and pushed off.

Messrs.

Messrs. Furst and Leger then deemed their destruction certain, and loudly expressed their despair. I could not resist, and begged the Indian to draw near the shore, that I might speak a few words of consolation to my companions. When I was near enough, I justified my conduct towards them by repeating what the Indian had said, and advised them to keep along the sea shore; and promised, on the word of a divine, that, as soon as I reached the Indian's hut, I would come back to them with the canoe. They knew me incapable of per-juring myself; the assurances I gave them calmed their minds, and they  
saw

saw us put to sea without inquietude.

We landed the same day, and the Indian took his canoe on his shoulders, carried it near the wood, and laid it on the snow. As I was fatigued with being so long on my knees in the canoe, I laid myself down to rest on a stone by the sea side; and thinking, after some time, that the Indian was lighting his fire with intent to sleep in that place, I took up my gun, two paddles, and two large pieces of meat, which I had put into the boat to save Messrs. Leger and Furst the trouble of carrying them, and climbed up upon  
some

some ice which was six feet high at least. I was no sooner there, than I saw my Indian and his wife had put on their rackets, which are a kind of snow shoes which the Canadian Indians use to walk quick on the snow. The man took his boy on his shoulders, and both ran as hard as they could: the cries I made to stop them only made them fly the faster: as soon as I could throw away my paddles, I got down the ice, and with my gun and my meat pursued their track for some time.

In getting up on the ice I wounded my right leg considerably, which

which received additional injury in my running—every step my leg sunk into the snow, and that was every moment: I lost my breath, and was many times obliged to rest on my gun to recover it. While in this posture, I heard the voice of M. Leger. This meeting gave us both great pleasure. I told him what had passed, and he in his turn informed me that M. Furst, overwhelmed with fatigue, was unable to keep up with him, and that he had left him extended on the snow a considerable distance from where we then were.

At

At any other time I should have flown to his assistance, but as it was of the utmost importance to us to overtake our fugitive, and M. Leger was sensible how much we risked by losing time in pursuing him, we immediately ran towards the place where I knew he had fled; but as he had quitted the snow to take the sea side, which was low and sandy, we were detained some time; we, however, continued our course, and, after walking a quarter of an hour, we discovered the Indian's track: he had quitted his rackets, undoubtedly on a supposition that I could not follow him so far. This circum-

At



circumstance made us believe we were not far from his dwelling: we redoubled our speed, and when we approached a wood we heard a gun fire; this we did not think proper to answer, concluding that if it was he who had fired, he would put on his rackets to enable him to run with greater haste when he knew we were so near.

We continued walking, and a little time after the first gun fired we heard a second: this made us suspect that the Indian designed to light his fire in this place, and rest himself and family, but that he  
wished

wished first to know if any one was in pursuit of him. Our conjecture herein was wrong.

Ten minutes after the second report we heard a third, and were so near that we saw the flash; but we did not answer, and continued to advance in silence. On our road we found a boat, on which they had been at work, and about twenty paces further we saw a large hut. We entered with an air which agreed with our situation, that of suppliants, but an old man who spoke French would not permit us to proceed. "Every man," says he, "is our equal. Your misfor-

"tunes

“tunes render you worthy, and I  
“look upon it as a favour granted  
“by heaven to be furnished with  
“an opportunity to do good to  
“men whom misfortune has pur-  
“sued. I only ask of you a re-  
“lacion of what has passed since  
“you have been in this island; I  
“shall be happy to condole with  
“you on your past misfortunes,  
“and my sensibility will add to  
“your consolation.”

At the same time he ordered that  
our meat should be dressed with  
some peas, and that nothing should  
be omitted to prove that humanity  
is as much a virtue among Ame-  
rican

rican Indians as more civilised nations. As soon as he had given his instructions, he requested us to satisfy his curiosity. I did so, and endeavoured to omit no one circumstance which had attended our misfortune. After I had ended my tale, I requested the old man to tell me why the two Indians, whom we had seen in the height of our misfortunes, had refused us any help.

“ The Indians,” says he, “ trem-  
“ ble at the name of sickness, and  
“ all my reasoning has not been  
“ able to dispel that fear from those  
“ you now see in this cabin. Not  
“ that they are insensible to the  
I “ mis-

“ misfortunes of their brethren—  
“ they would wish to comfort them,  
“ but the fear of breathing a cor-  
“ rupted air, checks that emotion  
“ in their hearts which naturally  
“ leads them to compassion. They  
“ fear death, not like other men ;  
“ and I know not if they would  
“ not be guilty of the greatest  
“ crimes to avoid it. There,” said  
he, shewing me an Indian which  
stood behind the others, “ is the  
“ man who broke his word with  
“ you. He returned to us about  
“ the beginning of the moon, and  
“ related to us the dreadful situa-  
“ tion in which he had seen the  
“ Frenchmen, whom he thought  
“ were

“ were by this time all dead ; but  
“ he would willingly have given  
“ them assistance, had not he feared  
“ the corruption which raged among  
“ them. ‘ There is the other,’ said  
he, shewing me the man I had run  
after ; “ he arrived here before you,  
“ and informed us there were three  
“ Frenchmen still living, who were  
“ no longer in the jaws of death,  
“ but who appeared well, and he  
“ believed we might venture to  
“ succour them without fear of in-  
“ fectious air. We had deliberated  
“ a few minutes ; afterwards we  
“ sent an Indian towards the place  
“ where you were, that he might  
“ inform you, by firing three guns,

“ of the place of our abode. There-  
“ fore it was the sickness among  
“ you which alone prevented us  
“ from assisting you; and perhaps  
“ we might have come to you not-  
“ withstanding, had we not been  
“ told, that any help we could send  
“ you would be of no service, and  
“ that we should run a great risk  
“ in approaching your dwelling,  
“ which was filled and surrounded  
“ with an atmosphere infectious  
“ and dangerous to breathe.”

This discourse, from a man who  
was one of a nation that a false  
prejudice had taught us to believe  
were incapable of thinking, and  
whom

whom we had unjustly concluded to be destitute of sentiment and expression, surprised me greatly. Indeed I must confess that, to impart such an idea of this Indian as I would wish to give, it would be necessary to hear him.

When the old man had ended his discourse, I endeavoured to express to him the gratitude we felt, and desired him to accept of my musket, which, in point of goodness and ornaments, was far preferable to any in the hut. I afterwards told him, that fatigue had prevented one of our comrades from following us, and that we should esteem it the



highest favour if he would send out two of his men to assist us in bringing him in. My entreaties were ineffectual; the Indians are afraid of going out in the night, and we could not procure any to go to M. Furst's assistance, but they promised to accompany me early in the morning. This refusal made me very unhappy; the old Indian saw my uneasiness, and told me it would be useless to seek for my friend in the night, as he had no musket to give notice where he was, and that we had better stay till the morning. M. Furst was therefore obliged to pass the night on the snow, protected from death by the hand

hand of God alone, for even in the hut we endured a most severe cold. The Indians make no fire when they sleep, and these had no blankets, consequently we passed a miserable night.

On the next day, as we were preparing to go in search of M. Furst, we saw him coming towards us; he had followed our traces, and, to come up with us, he had availed himself of the hardness of the snow which the cold of the night occasions, and which will then support the weight of those who walk on it. Our first care was to warm, then to give him some

refreshment, and we reciprocally expressed our pleasure at meeting each other again.

The 29th and 30th we remained with the Indians; we observed that the attention we paid to some excited jealousy in the rest, and they all endeavoured to surpass each other in their services to us. We were not in want either of the meat of the bear, or carabou, during those days, and they were sure to give us the most delicate pieces. I do not know whether the duties of hospitality are best fulfilled by the Europeans or the Indians, but I am tempted to believe that the latter

latter execute them with the better grace.

The 1st of May they launched their boat; we all embarked, and set sail. The wind failed us at noon, when about six leagues from the continent. This greatly affected me, for fear I should not be able to assist my companions who remained near the place of shipwreck; and in this fear I requested the old man to let me have two men and a bark canoe to get to the shore. With a view to induce him to grant my request, I promised to send to him, and those who were with him in the boat, some tobacco and brandy, as

soon as I should get among the French settlers. Although he was willing to oblige me, yet he had a council before he acceded; and it was not without difficulty that my request was granted. They were fearful that a passage of six leagues was too much for a canoe, and they were unwilling to expose us to danger. We departed, however, and about half after eleven at night we reached the shore and settlement. I went into the first house I saw, which belonged to M. Volant, a native of St. Germain en Léye, my friend, and chief of this post. It could not have fallen into better hands, as he had not only the desire, but

But ability to serve me. At first he did not recollect me, and indeed I was not in a state to be recollected; but as soon as I told him my name, he loaded me with expressions of friendship, and the pleasure we had in meeting each other was extreme. I at first told him of my engagement with the Indians, and brandy and tobacco were prepared for every one of our deliverers. They did not reach us until ten o'clock in the morning, during which interval I gave M. Volant a detail of our adventures, and forcibly pleaded the cause of the twenty-four men who remained near the wreck. My friend was much affected with their

their situation. He immediately prepared a boat to go in search of them, and also if the thirteen men who were in the yawl were still alive. He failed, and when he reached the neighbourhood in which our ship was wrecked, fired some muskets, to give information to those who had been left there. He soon saw four men, who threw themselves on their knees, and with folded hands entreated him to save their lives. Their haggard looks, and the sound of their voices, which announced them to be on the brink of the grave, affected M. Volant greatly. He joined them, and gave them some refreshment, but very moderate,

moderate, for fear that too large a quantity might cause their deaths. Notwithstanding this judicious precaution, one of them named Tenguy, a Breton, died after drinking a glass of brandy.

Twenty-one of the company were dead; these my friend ordered to be interred, and the three who had survived the fatigues, famine, and the rigour of the season, we brought away. It was, however, a considerable time before they were restored to health; one of them, Fourellot, the boatswain, had intervals of insanity, and the two others, named Baudet and Bonaw, had their  
bodies



bodies swelled all over. Good food, and the care taken of them, restored them, if not to perfect health, at least they were so recovered as to depart with us for Quebec.

As he returned, M. Volant perceived on the shore two bodies apparently of drowned men, and some remains of a canoe. He drew nearer to be certain of what he saw, and fired some guns to discover if any one was in the neighbourhood. No one appeared or answered, and I therefore concluded that the thirteen men who were in the canoe died of hunger and cold, for my friend saw, at some distance from the

the

the sea side, a kind of hut, a proof that they had landed, and, being destitute of help, must have perished miserably.

I need not tell you how much we were affected when we saw the three men arrive who had been left behind; you may naturally suppose our interview was very affecting, and that tears were not spared on either side.

After our first emotions, I enquired how they had been able to exist so long, and in what manner their companions had ended their lives. They told me that some had  
perished

perished by cold and hunger, and others had been carried off by dreadful ulcers; that their wants had been so great that the survivors had eaten even the shoes of their dead companions, after having first boiled them in melted snow, and afterwards broiled them. That when this resource failed, they had recourse to the leather breeches of the deceased, and that when M. Volant found them they had but one or two pairs remaining.

You may see therefore that the situation of these poor men was as afflicting as our own, and that they suffered perhaps more than we did,  
parti--

particularly as they were under the necessity of eating the cloaths of their deceased companions.

We remained near six weeks at Mingan, which we employed only in returning thanks to God, who had preserved us in the midst of such imminent danger. M. Leger quitted us to go to Labrador, there to get a passage for Old France; but we took our passage, on the 8th of June, in a small vessel for Quebec, and with a favourable wind reached it on the 13th. Every one was astonished at our return, as they thought we had been in France, and were anxious to know

know what had happened to us since our departure, and we satisfied those who were most concerned to know.

Next day we put the three seamen that M. Volant had brought away into the hospital, and M. Furst and I did all we could for the perfect re-establishment of our health. As soon as I was sufficiently recovered, they gave me the little living of Soulange, which I served for about a year, and then received another order to return to France. I embarked therefore as chaplain to the king's ship the Ruby, and sailed the 21st of October,

ber,

ber, 1738, and reached Port Lewis, in Bretagne, the 2d of December, to take in provisions, as our stock was nearly expended. Having supplied this want, we sailed for Rochefort, the place of our destination, where my duty detained me until the ship was put out of service.

THE END.

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