

Nipisiriniens, with whom he has [207] often wintered, and from whom he only withdrew to place his salvation in safety by the use of the Sacraments, without which there is great risk for the soul among the Savages.

On the fourth of May, as Monsieur Gand was going to make a visit to the three Rivers, I entered his bark, desiring to be present at an assembly of Savages which was to be held there. The wind being against us, fortunately for me a Canoe of Savages passed us which took me on board, and soon set me down where I wished to be. Monsieur Gand having at last arrived, the Savages came to see him, and held a council to implore him to induce the Captains who were coming to give them assistance in their wars. The first one who spoke pleased us greatly. He began with an exclamation: "What can I say? I have no longer any voice; heed not my words; listen to these poor widows and these poor orphans, who cry that they no longer have fathers or husbands. Do you alone, you Frenchmen, wish to exist in this country? Keep your hands folded, do not help us; and in a little while you will see [208] but women and children. We are going to die with our Captains whom our enemies have slaughtered. No, I am wrong, you are too good to see us rush headlong to death without lending us a hand. A very few of you can save all our lives, and make the whole country live again. Come, take courage; and, when the Captains arrive, speak for us." Monsieur Gand, looking quite as much to the salvation of their souls as to the welfare of their bodies, answered that he loved them, and would willingly speak in their behalf to the Captains; yet he feared that these Captains would no

more lend their ears to his words, than the Savages had shown affection for the French. "In the first place, you have not allied yourselves up to the present with our French people, your daughters have married with all the neighboring Nations, but not with ours. Your children live in the land of the Nipisiriniens, of the Algonquins, of the Attikamegues, of the people of the Sagné, and in all the other Nations. Up to the present you have not offered them to the French for instruction. If you had done this from the time of our first arrival in the Country, [209] you would all know by this time how to handle arms as we do, and your enemies would not exist in your presence,—you would not die every day as you are doing. He who has made all, and who protects us, would preserve you as well as he does us, as we would then be only one and the same People. Secondly, we remember very well that the Hiroquois have killed our people, and we will get satisfaction for it; but we will not be too hasty. You see that we are increasing every day; when our numbers shall be large enough we will attack them, and will not give up the war until we have exterminated them. If you wish to come with us, you may come; but, as you do not know how to obey in war, we shall not count upon your assistance. In the third place, if the Captains ask me if you do not seek Foreigners in your trading, I do not know what I can answer them. Nevertheless, if you are partial to an alliance with us, I will petition them in your behalf. Not that we have need of your daughters or your children; we are as populous as the leaves of your trees. But we [210] would like to see only one People in all this land." They answered that all



this was reasonable, and that Monsieur de Champlain had previously talked about this in private; that it must be spoken of in the presence of all the Nations.

On the twenty-second of the same month, I learned some very bad news at Kébec. A young baptized Savage, who lived in our house, being with one of our Frenchmen who was hunting beyond the Sault de Montmorency, the Frenchman's gun having burst in his hands and having wounded him, he returned in haste to have himself cared for, leaving a fire and some food to the little Savage, who could not follow him. This child, being afraid to be left alone, as we conjecture, coming to the torrent which falls at the Sault de Montmorency, tried to pass it; but, as it is very rapid, he was drowned. Oh what grief this accident caused us! For this poor little child was very docile, and gave us great hopes of some day succoring his compatriots by his good example. His purity consoles us and we hope he will not be less effective in heaven than he would have been upon earth. I [211] greatly feared that the Savages would reproach us for this death; and, in fact, some of them spoke to me about it. But when they were told how it happened, and learned of the promptness with which we went after him; when they saw that we even offered them beautiful presents if they would find him, alive or dead, they were pacified. It is true that I followed their custom in defending myself against them; for as they abuse those who speak to them of their dead, I chided them when they opened their mouths about this, saying they revived my grief, that I loved him like a brother; this made them keep still, saying to each other, "Speak