

doubts, and when they were explained, manifested his conviction. He requested baptism, but the Fathers¹ thought it unwise to admit to the bosom of the Church, on a single request, a proselyte of this character, deeming it proper to make him long desire that favor. One day, when he was earnestly soliciting it at one of the public conferences that I have described, the missionary who presided asked him to inform the assembly what had given him his first desire to become a Christian; and he replied in these words, which I take, literally, from the missionary's own letter:

"This thought engaged my mind even before you came to this country. I often ran great risks, and on many occasions I happily escaped, when all my comrades perished at my side. Some powerful genius, I said to myself, must bear especial watch over my days, and I could never banish the thought that this genius must be infinitely superior to those who are honored among us. Nor could I avoid regarding as silly all that is told us of dreams. No sooner had I heard Jesus spoken of, than I felt assured that he was the protector to whom I had so often been indebted for liberty and life. Stubborn an adherent as I may have since appeared of our practices and traditions, I nevertheless felt interiorly moved to adore Him alone; and if I have so long deferred obeying this impulse of my heart, it was because I wished to be instructed before making the avowal. Even when I seemed least disposed to hear you, I undertook no enterprise without commanding myself to Jesus, and I put all my trust in him. For a long time I have invoked him every morning; to him I attribute every success; and in his name I ask baptism from you, that he may be merciful to me after death."²

The missionaries thought it wrong to withhold this satisfaction longer from a man so well prepared. He was

His vocation to Christianity.

¹ The missionaries at this town were Fathers Garnier and le Moyne: Relation, 1642, p. 76

² This address is more simply and beautifully given in the Relation, 1642, p. 59.