

uting to a conversion so desired, except perhaps by wresting it from Heaven by their prayers, the manner in which it was effected gave them no less consolation, and strengthened their faith.

1644.

One day, when the husband was conversing with Father Vimond on the matter, they were both extremely surprised to see the chief enter the room where they were; but their astonishment increased all the more when, in reply to a question as to the motive of his coming, he stated that he was there to become a Christian. Father Vimond asked the motive for so sudden a resolution, at variance with all his previously expressed sentiments. He declared that it was impossible for him to tell it; that, as he was proceeding from Fort Richelieu to Three Rivers, a sudden change took place in his mind, which he did not understand; and that, by a movement which he could not control, he had taken his way back to Montreal, to be instructed in the doctrine of the Christians. He added that his wife was in the same disposition as himself. Then addressing Father Vimond: "Father," said he, "I am not well: nevertheless, if you refuse me this favor which I ask, I am resolved to go to the Hurons, where I hope they will grant it."¹

His nephew listened to all this like a man who knows not whether he dreams or is awake; then, unable to contain the joy that transported him, he ran to Mr. de Maisonneuve to inform him what he had seen and heard. The governor wished to examine in person so improbable a fact; and finding it real, embraced the convert, assured him of his friendship, and told him that he would undertake to induce the superior-general to gratify his desire. Father Vimond was not less eager to see the accomplishment of a work the results of which could not fail to be so advantageous to religion; but the affair was not one to be

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, nadensis, p. 373; Faillon, Histoire de 1643, p. 55; Creuxius, Historia Ca- la Colonie Française, i., p. 461.