

1635. viction in matters which they have not paid the slightest attention to, or in fact understood.

They have been seen to frequent our churches for years with an assiduity, modesty, exterior reverence, and every mark of sincere desire to know and embrace the truth; then draw off, saying coldly to the missionary, flattered with the hope of soon begetting them in Christ: "Thou hadst no one to pray with thee. I took pity on thy loneliness, and wished to keep thee company: now that others are inclined to render thee the same service, I retire." This instance I heard from a missionary to whom it had happened at Michillimakinac. I have even read somewhere that some carried dissimulation or complacency so far as to ask and receive baptism, and fulfil for a time, with edification, all the duties of Christianity; then declare that they had done so only to please the missionary, who had pressed them to change their religion.

On the other hand, the refusal of these barbarians to submit to the truths announced to them, is not always a proof that they are not convinced. Some have been met who had no doubt left as to the most incomprehensible articles of our faith, and who publicly avowed it, but would not listen to any suggestion of their conversion. Deplorable obduracy, but which should excite our surprise the less, from our daily seeing examples of it in the very bosom of Christendom. As an Iroquois lay on his death-bed, some fire fell on the robe which covered him. As he saw them endeavoring to extinguish it, he said: "It is not worth while. I know that I shall burn for all eternity; whether it begins a little sooner or a little later, is not worth all the trouble you are taking." Old missionaries have assured me that these cases of despair are not as rare as would naturally be supposed.<sup>1</sup>

But it was not so soon that such testimonies in favor of

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<sup>1</sup> These cases are given, apparently, *voix* does not seem to quote any from oral information, as *Charle-* authority.