

gave counsel in doubts and strength in the assaults which hell and the world more than once made on them.

About this time Catharine had a very severe one to sustain, coming too from the very persons from whom she supposed herself least likely to anticipate anything of the kind. The same adopted sister who had attracted her thither, took it into her head to marry her off, and there is nothing that she did not resort to, to overcome her resistance. She began by telling her that though she and her husband deemed it a pleasure to meet all her wants, still it might well be that, burdened with a large family, they might not always be in a position to continue supplying her with necessaries, and that moreover, in case of their death, she would be left without support.

The virtuous virgin was the more affected at these words because she was not a burden to her sister : she nevertheless thanked her for her attention and promised to reflect on what she had just said. She immediately went to her confessor, and expressed her grief that a sister who till then had given her so many marks of sincere friendship, now wished to hamper her in the only thing in which she wished to be free. The Father, after hearing her calmly, told her, that, in reality, her sister was not so far wrong in speaking as she had done ; that she should thank her for the precautions which she wished her to take in order to assure a decent subsistence ; and that the matter deserved calm consideration. "It is no longer time to deliberate," replied Catharine ; "I am no longer my own, I have given myself unreservedly to Jesus Christ." "But," rejoined the missionary, "who will nourish you, and assist you in your infirmities, should God remove your sister?" "That is my least anxiety," replied the generous neophyte ; "he who feeds the birds of the air, will not let me want the little I need to live?" The missionary did not seem to yield ; he dismissed his penitent, bidding her again consult the Lord on a point in which he did not yet see manifest the Divine Will. She then retired very sad.

The same day her sister again pressed the matter, and finding her inflexible, induced Anastasia, whose age and virtue caused both to regard her as a mother, to speak to her on the point. Anastasia at first entered into the young woman's views, because it was unexampled among the Iroquois, for a girl to persevere in celibacy ; the Missionaries having so far deemed it inexpedient to give these Indians the counsel which St. Paul gave the primitive Christians. Anastasia accordingly undertook to persuade Catharine to conform to her sister's wishes. She gained nothing, and seemed somewhat nettled. This she showed Catharine by