

We were all ready to grant him what he asked with so much fervor, especially as he was very well instructed, and as we had the consent of his parents. Nevertheless, everything well considered, we judged it wiser to defer it for a time. We had not yet baptized any one who had the use of his reason, unless he were in danger of death. It would have been too greatly to endanger holy Baptism, that he should be the only Christian in his [82] cabin; and although the whole family showed enough good will toward Baptism, nevertheless they deferred the matter until the return of *Satouta*, their relative, and now one of our Seminarists at Quebec. In the meanwhile, he was attacked by the contagion; this child was taken sick first, his grandmother and mother followed him, and in a few days there were 4 or 5 of them upon sick beds. It seemed that there was reason to have strong hope for all of them at this time, and that the danger of death and the fear of eternal torments would prevail over all the considerations they had urged to justify their sluggishness in an affair of such importance; and above all we were rejoiced to see that God offered us a means of satisfying the child and granting his request. But it happened to him quite otherwise. The Father Superior went oftentimes to visit them, but either he found the door closed, or they closed his mouth as soon as he began to make overtures concerning Baptism. They had made a partition in the cabin where this child was, and they were always reluctant to permit the Father to see him, or speak with him; and, when he did, he had scarcely said three words before he was instantly told to go away. We did not think so badly of them until it happened [83] that one day, finding them-