

if this good old man had felt the approaches of death, he entreated the father earnestly not to defer it long, telling him not to fail to come and baptize him the next morning at dawn,—testifying to him that he firmly believed all our Mysteries, and that he desired to go to heaven. The Father granted his request, and with so much comfort on both sides as to make it easily seen that it was an act of providence, and a very special mercy on the part of God. In fact, he lost consciousness very soon afterwards, and died the same day. This Savage was an *Algonquin* by Nation, and had been brought up from infancy among the Hurons. What a providence of God! Doubtless this happy end was granted to him by this infinite goodness in consideration of the great diligence he had always shown in listening to the word of God. The good qualities that I have heretofore praised in some others were much more conspicuous in him. He had a natural gentleness which won all men; he was not a man who was a slave to his stomach, being more abstemious than the Savages usually are. His visits, although rather frequent, were not annoying to us. The others generally have something to ask for; but, as for him, he [95] visited us only through friendship, and you found him always ready to listen to good conversation. In the Catechisms conducted by the Father Superior the winter before, he was always among the first to begin talking and to praise our Mysteries, and had often shown to us his willingness to become a Christian. These are precious stones that God uncovers to us in the midst of these forsaken lands; and we have every reason to believe that they will not be so rare in the future, since we have determined to go and seek them henceforth in the most