

hung his head and turned a deaf ear, the matter was deferred until the next day.

On the morning of the 6th, they again assembled; and *Onaonchiaronk* declared that he had passed almost the whole night without sleep, thinking of the points the father had proposed; for his part, he considered them very reasonable, but indeed he saw clearly that the young people would find great difficulties therein; however, all things well considered, he concluded that it was better to take a little trouble, and live, than to die miserably like those who had been already carried off by the disease. He spoke in so excellent fashion, and urged them so strongly, that no one dared to contradict him, and all agreed to what the father had required,—adding that they also bound themselves to build a beautiful Chapel in the spring. This decision made, the Father returned to Ihonattiria, much consoled to have left them in this favorable state of mind. He already contemplated going to catechize them from [119] time to time; but, besides that God gave us employment elsewhere, they immediately resumed their old customs. To be sure, those of our village had been the first to begin, and, the day after they had assembled in our cabin, they donned their masks and danced, to drive away the disease. With all that, they did not hesitate to tell us that they were the best Christians in the world, and were all ready to be baptized. Having gone directly afterwards to instruct the little children, I encountered the very one who had been, as it were, the master of these follies. He addressed me, and acting the hypocrite, said, “Well, my brother, when shall we assemble to pray to God?” He gave me a good chance to wash his head; but it