

to the Captain *Anenkhiondic*, regarding the promise that he himself had given us some days before, to make some vow to God in this public necessity; and the next day the council assembled, in which the father instructed them upon the reality of a God, who was the master [126] of our lives,—summarizing for them the principal mysteries of our belief, explaining to them the commandments of God, and the points he had proposed to the others. The affliction in which they were plunged (for every day some of them died) placed the affair beyond discussion, and all concluded that they would henceforth recognize God as their God, and that they would believe in him,—in a word, that they had decided to give up all their customs that they knew would displease him, and that they would very willingly make a vow to him to erect in the spring a cabin in his honor. The fickleness of the others gave us sufficient reason to mistrust the good will of these; nevertheless, all things well considered, the Father Superior judged that it would be, perhaps, opposing the designs of Heaven, not to second this good intention. They were partly inclined to this by an impulse of their own, manifesting to us a very peculiar interest. The grace that God bestowed upon several of them, at the time of their conversion, caused us to believe that he looked upon this village with special favor, and was preparing for it great blessings. Besides, [127] it is the approach to the whole country; and from that time on we were strongly inclined to settle down there as soon as possible. However, the Father did not judge it wise to be hasty in the matter, and the final decision was postponed until the next day. Meanwhile, as there were some present from all the