

ported to us, on the way, as partially recovered, was at the point of death, we ran thither. It was time, for he could hardly speak, and had still more trouble to understand. I spoke to him about baptism and its importance; he answered me what he had often told us, that he was very glad to be baptized. His wife helped us to instruct him; this was not done without difficulty, for,—besides that she was of a strange nation, and spoke a language that I did not understand so well,—often this old man seemed to become drowsy; and, when I asked him at times if he heard me, occasionally he did not answer me the first time. This caused us to baptize him only conditionally. He died the next morning at dawn.

On the 21st, we baptized a woman who checked us at two points: First,—having spoken to her of Paradise, and having made her understand that without baptism it was not possible ever to go there, and that those who died without baptism went to hell,—she said to me frankly that, for her part, she did not wish to go elsewhere than there, where her dead relatives were; nevertheless, [137] she soon changed her mind when she heard about the wretched condition of the damned, and that they received no consolation from one another. I explained to her the rest of our mysteries, as far as the Commandments of God; there she stopped me again, and, when I was exhorting her to be sorry for having offended God, and telling her that without doing so her sins would not be pardoned her, she answered me that she could not do it,—that she had not offended God, and that she did not know what sin was. Those who were present, and who had been very willing to have her baptized, almost spoiled the whole affair by saying that indeed she