

tism, which took place on Christmas eve. He stopped the Father a little while upon the act of contrition. "It would be useless" (he said to him) "for me to repent of having sinned, seeing that I never have sinned." Nevertheless, after having been fully instructed upon this point he acquitted himself admirably therein, and, holding a crucifix in his hand, he asked pardon of our Lord with a great deal of [145] feeling, and promised him to keep his holy commandments all his life. Among them a man is not counted a sinner who does not kill, rob, bewitch some one, or do some extraordinary thing. He also begged the Father to leave him the cross, in order to protect him from the spirits which, according to his story, tormented him at night,—adding that when he saw them he cast his eyes upon this adorable sign of our redemption, and prayed our Lord to defend him.

On the 27th, the Father Superior returned to *Ossossané* with Father Isaac Jogues and Simon Baron. He passed through *Anonatea*, where he visited the *Bisiriniens* to assure them of the sympathy we felt for them in their affliction, for they already counted as many as 30 or 40 dead. The Father proposed Holy baptism to some of them, but without effect; our Holy mysteries in the Huron language are like night to them, and, besides, they are still more attached to their superstition than are our Savages. He learned there what they thought of the disease. It was brought upon them, they said, as well as upon the Hurons, by *Andesson*, Captain of the Island, in revenge, because they had not consented to join their forces with the latter to make war upon the *Hiroquois*.¹⁴ But, in passing through *Onnentisati*, he heard [146] a very different piece of news, which was