

and his brothers were not usually present at the Catechisms, except to get a piece of tobacco, or to laugh among themselves afterwards at what they had heard there. Besides, they had often admitted to us that they took us for liars, and did not believe in the least what we taught; and that what we said was not at all probable,—that there was no likelihood that they and we had the same God, Creator of their earth as well as of ours, and that we had all descended from the same father. “Indeed,” said *Sononkhiaconc* one day, “who would have brought us to this country,—how would we have crossed so many seas in little bark canoes? The least wind would have engulfed us, or we would at least have died of hunger at the end of 4 or 5 days. And then, if that were so, we would know how to make knives and clothes as well as you people.” I would waste too much paper if I were to undertake to set down here all their extravagances. But the justice that God exercised towards them is altogether remarkable. They had [151] seen the greater part of the other cabins infected with the disease without feeling any anxiety for their own lives; they had shown open contempt for the means we gave them to obtain from heaven deliverance from this malady; they walked with their heads high in the midst of so many corpses, as if they were made of different material from the others, and beyond the reach of death,—when the hand of God fell heavily upon them; three of them fell sick almost at the same time. The mother was the first; she was a renegade Christian, who, having been baptized two years before, had oftentimes afterwards recanted her baptism. We had never been able to teach her any of our mysteries; and even when we spoke to her some-