

times about making the sign of the cross, or saying the Pater, she stopped us at the first word and began to quarrel with us. Your Reverence already knows that there is nothing capable of arousing to anger a Huron who has lost his father or mother, except to say to him, "Thy father is dead; thy mother is dead;" the mere word "father" or "mother" puts them into a passion. I will say here, since the occasion presents itself, that from the month of December we were obliged for this reason to desist from going through the cabins to instruct [152] the little children, and to assemble them at our house every Sunday, to have them pray to God,—seeing that only recently a great many of their relations had died; and then those who remained alive have been so busily occupied all the Winter searching for remedies for the health of the sick, and have shown so little interest in our holy mysteries, that we decided that this exercise might rather injure than advance the affairs of Christianity. But to return to this wretched renegade; we visited her several times during her sickness, and, among others, a little while before she died. We went there, Father Pierre Chastelain and I, with the determination to do all we could to dispose her to penitence in this extremity. But she stopped us at the first step; for, when we asked her if she was not very glad to have been baptized, she answered "no." And also one of her children about 15 or 16 years old, who was then very sick, being solicited several times in regard to baptism, and having left the matter to her decision, this hard-hearted mother answered, that up to her death, she did not wish him to be baptized. The Reverend Father Superior likewise urged the same thing very earnestly