

he had visited some others, who had bluntly refused baptism; and he even passed the evening instructing a woman who was very near her, who appeared quite sick and very earnestly requested baptism; as to the other one, for whom God was preparing heaven, the father hardly gave her a thought, nor did he judge it necessary to speak to her again on the subject of her salvation, not perceiving the danger in which she was, yet she was hardly able to live through the night. The next morning, the Father returned to visit them, for he had withdrawn to another cabin. His chief purpose was to baptize her whom he had instructed, and God led him straight to the other one; in short, he instructed and baptized her, and she died at the end of an hour or two; while the one who had so eagerly requested baptism the evening before, would not hear of it in [171] any way whatever. *Unus assumetur, alter relinquetur*. We again visited these two villages some days afterwards, Father Pierre Chastellain and I; but we found there no inclination towards baptism, some having lost consciousness, and others lacking the good will.

On the 30th, our great lake was entirely covered with ice. It had been frozen for a long time, up to certain Islands; but beyond these the almost continual winds had always broken the ice. It does not freeze everywhere except in very calm weather. It is a convenience to these peoples; for, as soon as the ice is strong enough, they take corn to the Algonquins, and bring back quantities of fish. We have had a long Winter this year; it began on the 10th or 12th of October, and has greatly encroached upon the Spring; there is little appearance of a favorable year, if the goodness of God is not interposed. Here