

cruelty. In all the places through which he had passed he had been given something with which to make a feast; they did not fail here in this act of courtesy, for a dog was immediately put into the kettle, and, before it was half cooked, he was brought into the cabin where the people were to gather for the banquet. He had some one tell the Father Superior to follow him, and that he was very glad to see him. Doubtless it had touched his heart to find (among barbarians whom cruelty alone rendered affable and humane) persons who had some real feeling for his [27] misery. We began then to have strong hopes of his conversion. So we entered and placed ourselves near him; the Father Superior took occasion to tell him to be of good cheer, that he would in truth be miserable during the little of life that remained to him, but that, if he would listen to him and would believe what he had to tell him, he would assure him of an eternal happiness in Heaven after his death. He spoke to him fully upon the immortality of the soul, on the pleasures enjoyed by the blessed in Paradise, and on the wretched condition of the damned in Hell. Meanwhile Father Garnier and I, in order to contribute something to the conversion of this poor Savage, made a vow to say four Masses in honor of the blessed Virgin, that it might please God to show him mercy and to give him the grace to be baptized. Your Reverence would have felt consolation in seeing with what attention he listened to this discourse. He took so much pleasure in it and understood it so well, that he repeated it in a few words, and showed a great desire to go to Heaven. All those who were beside him conspired, it seemed, with us in the purpose to instruct him,—among oth-