

through a special Providence, we unwittingly took lodgings in the cabin that had been assigned to the prisoner. In the evening he made a feast, at which he sang and danced, according to the manner of the country, during a good part of the night. The Father instructed him more minutely on all that pertains to the duty of a Christian, and especially upon the holy Commandments of God. There was present a goodly company, and all showed that they took a singular pleasure in this conversation. This gave the Father occasion, in discussing the sixth Commandment, to explain to them how highly God esteemed chastity, and that, on this account, we had bound ourselves by a vow to cultivate this virtue inviolably until death. They were greatly astonished to learn that among the [33] Christians there were so many persons of both sexes who voluntarily deprived themselves during their entire lifetime of sensual pleasures, in which these find all their happiness. They even asked many questions. Among others, some one asked why men were ashamed to be seen naked among themselves, and, above all, why we could not endure to have them go without clouts. The Father replied that it was due to the sin of the first man; that before he had transgressed the law of God, and his will had become disordered, neither he nor Eve, his wife, had been aware of their nakedness; that their disobedience had opened their eyes, and had made them seek something with which to cover themselves. I only allude here, in a few words, to the long and beautiful discourses the Father Superior made to them upon this and similar occasions. Another one asked him how we knew there was a Hell, and whence we obtained all that we told about the condition of the