

ished to see us so strongly attached to him,—following him everywhere, losing no occasion to speak to him, and to give him some word of consolation. Others, it seemed, thought of nothing else than of doing him some good. Many were arrested by his condition, and contemplated the extremity of his misery. Among others, a woman,—thinking, it is to be supposed, that this poor victim would be happy and would be spared a great deal of his suffering if he could kill himself, and anticipate the insolence and cruelty of the young men,—asked the Father if there would be any harm in this act. Thus divine goodness is always affording new opportunities to reveal and explain his holy Law to this barbarous people. The Father instructed them fully upon this point, and showed them that God alone was the master of our lives, and it was for him only to dispose of them; that those who poisoned themselves or made away with themselves by violence, committed a grievous sin; and that Saouandanoncua — speaking of our Joseph — would lose the fruit of his baptism, and would never go to Heaven, if he hastened by a single moment [39] the hour of his death.

Meanwhile the Sun, which was fast declining, admonished us to withdraw to the place where this cruel Tragedy was to be enacted. It was in the cabin of one Atsan, who is the great war Captain; therefore it is called “Otinontsiskiaj ondaon,” meaning, “the house of cut-off heads.” It is there all the Councils of war are held; as to the house where the affairs of the country, and those which relate only to the observance of order, are transacted, it is called “Endionrra ondaon,” “house of the Council.” We took, then, a place where we could be near the victim, and