

“Why art thou sorry,” added some one, “that we tormented him?” “I do not disapprove of your killing him, but of your treating him in that way.” “What then! how do you French people do? Do you not kill men?” “Yes, indeed; we kill them, but not with this cruelty.” [50] “What! do you never burn any?” “Not often,” said the Father, “and even then fire is only for enormous crimes, and there is only one person to whom this kind of execution belongs by right; and besides, they are not made to linger so long,—often they are first strangled, and generally they are thrown at once into the fire, where they are immediately smothered and consumed.” They asked the Father Superior many other questions, such as, “where was God?” and other similar ones, which gave him occasion to converse with them about his divine attributes, and reveal to them the mysteries of our faith. These discourses were favorable to our Joseph; for, besides giving him good thoughts and tending to confirm him in the faith, while this conversation lasted no one thought of burning him. All listened very attentively, except some young men, who said once or twice, “Come, we must interrupt him, there is too much talk,” and they immediately began to torment the sufferer. He himself also entertained the company for a while, on the state of affairs in his country, and the death of some Hurons who had been taken in war. He did this as easily, and with a countenance as [51] composed, as any one there present would have showed. This availed him at least as so much diminution of his sufferings; therefore, he said, they were doing him a great favor by asking him many questions, and that this in some measure diverted him from his troubles.