

from the conclusions that his own inclinations furnished. One old man, among others,—a man of intelligence, and respected on account of his age and prudence,—declared, at leaving, that he earnestly wished that we would oftener call them together thus.

However, if we had trouble in assembling this first one, the second cost us no less. We had to wait two weeks in obedience to the dream of a rich old man, for whose health this village was having daily feasts. At last, the Father gained over the most influential one of all the Old Men, and strongly interested him in our plan,—which was that he had something new to tell them about Hell; and, above all, that these are not fables, as the majority of them had imagined. Accordingly, on the 1st of February, behold a larger audience than before, all disposed to lend ear to our Preacher. He took as the subject of his discourse this thought,—that if, to escape the hands of the Iroquois, their enemies, they spared no ingenuity, with how much more reason should they keep upon their guard not to fall some day into the hands of a cruel enemy, who will torment them forever. It is my great regret that I cannot here reproduce the simplicity of the language, which the Father possesses perfectly; I considered this discourse without doubt capable of conquering the hardest heart. But [56] what was, in my opinion, the most persuasive was the discourse of that good Captain,—who, in order to enhance what the Father had held forth, praised our Joseph very highly, and exhorted the people of this village to receive instruction. To all this, they redoubled their “Ho, Ho, Ho,” which they utter when they accept the conclusion of a Captain. Then they