

it cross the current, I pursued it. I found that it was a deer which was passing from one Island to another; we soon put it to death, to the astonishment of my people, who made a meal of it with me.

“Upon going thence, I retreated towards the Algonquins, where the contagion was already beginning. Now, as I had frequented your house, they often asked me what your belief was. When I explained to them what you had taught me about the other life, they mocked me, [121] showing surprise that I was so stupid as to believe things so opposed to reason. ‘If these Fathers said to us,’ they declared, ‘“Believe in God, and you will live a long time upon earth; you will not be sick, you will all have gray hair before you die,” this doctrine would be a good one, everybody would believe it. But they speak of another life, and, through their prayers, make us lose this one that we live here below. Now this is worth nothing; and thou thyself,’ they said to me, ‘thou wilt soon die, since thou art willing to believe them.’ I said to myself, when I heard this talk, ‘I do not think that God, who is so good, will kill me for believing in him, and for trying to obey him;’ in fact, he has preserved me, and all those who spoke against him have died. The disease pressed so hard upon us that the bodies of the Dead were left without burial; the others did not dare go near them, and I wrapped and buried them without fearing anything, praying God that he would preserve me, which he did.” This is what this Neophyte related to us.

Leaving the Algonquin country, he went to the three Rivers and presented himself to our Fathers to be instructed. They refused him, at first, as a sor-