

us, not to take another; behold me, then, obliged to remain single, for our women have no sense. To live among us without a wife is to live without help, without home, and to be always wandering." We asked him if he did not think he had enough strength, with the grace of God, not to leave his wife in case he should marry a Christian. "Yes, indeed," he replied, "for I have no desire to abandon her." "Well, then," we rejoined, "if God is powerful enough to give thee perseverance in marriage with only one woman, why [127] could he not give the same strength to a woman if she is a Christian?" "You are right," he replied, "I will not lose courage, my hope is in him; and, even if I were to remain single all the rest of my days, life is not long."

The time appointed for his Baptism drawing near, we sounded him more thoroughly. We told him one day that, if he fell sick when he became a Christian, he would imagine that we had caused this sickness. "It is true," said he, "that people believe you to be the authors of the contagion which is beginning afresh; but I laugh at all that,—you are not Gods, to dispose of the lives of men." "Thy people will divert thee from the Faith," we said to him, "thou art inconstant, thou wilt not hold firm." "It is very true that I have no mind," he replied; "but if all the Savages should say to me, 'We will kill thee if thou hast thyself baptized,' I would say to them, 'Kill me, it does not matter,—I intend to be baptized; since the great Captain of Heaven wishes it so, I intend to obey him, and not you, who have neither power nor influence over our souls.'" "But how does it happen," we asked him, "that thou art not liked by thy Captains?" [128] "I know only one