

himself for reception; but, seeing how old he was, we refused him. The Savages do not allow themselves to be thrice denied, unless they have a great longing to obtain what they demand; we refused this one more than four times, and still he never lost courage. He applied to our Frenchmen, in order to obtain admission to us through their agency; but the Father who had to take charge of him, wishing to get rid of him entirely, told him that he was too old, and that his mind was too dull to retain what would be taught him,—that, moreover, being familiar with the River, he would be able to escape, and to steal what he could get hold of in our house, as others had done; that, consequently, he should return to his own country to be [132] instructed by our Fathers who were there. To all this he replied shrewdly. “It seems to me,” he said, “that thou art not right to prefer children to grown men. Young people are not listened to in our country; if they should relate wonders, they would not be believed. But men speak,—they have solid understanding, and what they say is believed; hence I shall make a better report of your doctrine, when I return to my country, than will the children whom thou seekest. As for thy fear that I may run away, and that I may steal, I will leave as pledges in the hands of the French what will be worth fully as much as I could take away, if I were inclined to be wicked. As to obtaining instruction in our village, that is a difficult matter, on account of the distractions that arise,—both in regard to business, and to the diversity of opinions and sentiments among my Countrymen, who have not the same willingness that I have. This is what made me resolve to come down here to discuss