

“ Moreover, you declare that those who go to Hell do not come out of it, and yet you relate Stories of the damned who have appeared in the world; how is that to be understood? ”

Those who read this may believe what they please, but it is true that these questions were asked by young Savage Seminarists between twelve and fifteen years old. When it was explained to them that Devils had no bodies, and that when they wished to make themselves visible to men, they assumed deformed bodies, they asked if, when these appeared in the form of men or of animals, [142] they could not be killed. “ Ah, how I would like to kill them, ” said one, “ since they do so much harm! ” “ But if they are made like men, ” they said, “ and come among men, do they still feel the fire of Hell? Why is it that they do not repent of having offended God? If they did repent, would not God be merciful to them? If Our Lord has suffered for all sinners, why do not those receive pardon from him? ” Here is still another question, and a very remarkable one for children: “ You say that the Virgin, Mother of JESUS CHRIST, is not God, and that she has never offended God, and that her Son has redeemed all men, and atoned for all; if she has done nothing wrong, her Son could not redeem her nor atone for her. ” In truth, all these queries astonish me, when I think of them as coming from the mouth of a child who is called a Savage and a barbarian. I do not mention the answers given them by their Director, both to avoid being tedious, and inasmuch as I do not purpose to speak here directly of our own actions, but of those of the Savages. Now, while our Seminarists [145 i.e., 143] were living in a sweet tran-