

Some time after her arrival, we called a score of old women, the youngest of whom was nearly seventy years old, to instruct them in the Faith in their declining years; this one was among them. When we came to describe the fires of Hell, "It were a great deal better," said she, "to be burned by the Hiroquois than by the Devils." As a result, she was baptized with some others, which caused us to say that all the Demons and all human creatures could not turn away the goodness of God when it pleased his Divine Providence to place a soul among the number of his elect. Another woman, not quite as old as this one, seriously endangered her life [163] in the defeat of her people. When she saw that the Hiroquois were fighting with them, she ran into the depths of a great clump of firs, where she heard the cries and the blows of the combatants; and, lest her footsteps or tracks should appear, she concealed herself in some muddy and stagnant water that she found there. As she was not far from the Hiroquois Fort, she dared not leave this gloomy abode. At last, the enemy having departed, she emerged from it, two days after the fight, to repair to our French settlement. She had not gone far when she heard a loud cry; thinking that it was still the Hiroquois, she ran back into her den, where she passed another whole day. The next day, thinking that all was at peace, she left these cold and miry waters; but, as she approached the French, she heard some loud cannon-shots. This poor creature imagined that the Hiroquois were attacking the Fort, and that they were having a fierce fight. She again plunged into the mud, and passed there the two following days. In brief, her misery compelling her to emerge there-