

It seems as if, in this occurrence, God intends to confirm us in the thought that experience had already suggested to us on other similar occasions,—that the baptisms of such persons were not without a special arrangement of his goodness and mercy toward those poor unfortunates, and without himself putting his hand thereto. [96] The only one of the twelve who did not receive baptism was not the one who had the fewest calls and inducements to do so. Less resistance in approaching him was met from the Savages who were guarding him, than would have been made in the case of the others, and opportunity was found to show him more evidences of good will and affection; yet it was never possible to obtain from this poor wretch any acceptance of what was said and represented to him. They accosted him on three different days, and followed him to the place whither he was taken, but nothing could ever be gained from this man. He even prevented, for a time, one of his companions from being baptized, who otherwise showed as much inclination and pious desire to be instructed as this wretch had felt aversion to it. But happening once to be apart, we accomplished for this 2nd man what the companionship of the other had diverted him from, having found him as favorably inclined as before.

Of the 12, two were assigned to this village whence I am writing, and abandoned, as usual, by those who were their masters, to the customary cruelties of the country. Both were of the [97] number of the baptized; one of them, especially, showed a constancy in his torments beyond not only anything that one had ever seen, but perhaps beyond what one could have imagined if one had not seen it. During the