

the Savages whom we have visited, you see therein clearly, it would seem, the spirit of God and of the devil struggling in their minds and hearts. One day, you see them all killing themselves to say that they believe, and that they wish to be baptized; another day, everything is overthrown and hopeless. This contrast is a manifest sign of combat and battle; but it must be confessed that we do not yet see to which side the complete victory leans, and if we had no other principle to guide us in our hopes than what appears to our eyes, we would have reason to think that the end is still very far away; but, as there is nothing impossible to God, and as his blessing often depends upon certain times and moments, and certain resources that are unknown to us, we must await with patience and courage all that it may please him to ordain.

The climax of it is, that the most intelligent among these poor Barbarians, not being able to comprehend the object and motive that have caused us to leave France and come so far, with so much difficulty and labor, and not seeing us claim any profit or advantage [110] from our residence among them, nor from the kindnesses that we are continually rendering to them, conclude that we must, therefore, desire their ruin, since we can only aim at some object of great importance in such a resolution.

It is useless to tell them that this is to announce to them the blessings and riches of the other life; they have no conception of these, realizing no other good things than those they see with their eyes. And as we are obliged to tell them that the blessings we preach to them are seen only after death, those speeches into which death enters confirm them more