

baptize men and women who have presented themselves, who have been deemed qualified for this blessing, [46] so that the number of the faithful who make profession of Christianity in this Village now amounts to nearly 60, of whom many are Wenroronons from among those poor Strangers taking refuge in this country, whom we mentioned at the beginning of this Chapter,—divine Providence having waited for them to furnish the nucleus for this new Church, as if they were predestined, from all Eternity, to be a part of the foundation stones. In this number are also some other Strangers of different Nations who have since retired to their own country, who, sooner or later, may be very useful in carrying out some design of the Providence, Goodness, and Mercy of God.

I said, “nearly 60 of the Faithful making a profession of Christianity;” for of those baptized in the extremity of their sickness there are many others in the Village, who, nevertheless, having recovered their health, have attached no value to the blessing they had received,—to which, for all that, it may be believed, at least in the case of some, that they are indebted also for temporal life.

It must be confessed that the travail of a spiritual birth is painful, in the case [47] of these peoples, Barbarous and savage to the last degree. But it is also true that there is great consolation in seeing these poor creatures brought to recognize, to respect, and to obey their Creator and Redeemer, and to assume the duties of real Christians.

Hardly could one repress the tears of joy, who should see, on a Sunday morning, these poor people arrive at our house to hear Mass, having departed