

them that every country [55] has its own ways of doing things; that, as you do not urge them to adopt ours, so you are surprised at their urging us to adopt theirs in this matter, and to acknowledge with them the same Creator of Heaven and of Earth, and the universal Lord of all things.. I ask you, when at first you saw their hatchets and kettles, after having discovered that they were incomparably better and more convenient than our stone hatchets and our wooden and earthen vessels,² did you reject their hatchets and kettles, because they were new things in your country, and because it was the custom of France to use them and not yours? Now if they urge us to believe what they believe, and to live conformably to this belief, we are under great obligations to them; for indeed, if what they say is true, as it is, we are the most miserable people in the world if we do not do as they tell us."

I would never finish if I were to dwell at length upon all the discourses, or rather upon all the flashes of the spirit of God, which often seems to speak through the [56] mouth of this good Neophyte. I say "flashes of the spirit of God," for we cannot think of anything else when we see him sometimes beginning to bless God and to praise him in the same fashion and manner as did in olden time the children in the furnace, without his ever having learned what the holy Scriptures teach us thereof.

I would not find myself less embarrassed if I had undertaken to declare all the acts of remarkable virtue and all the good examples he has continued to manifest since the time of the last Relation, whether in health or in sickness, in prosperity or in adversity.

When it was a question of going after those poor