

approaches them, it is wise, even necessary, to have as much public preaching as possible; then if, while continuing the work, disorder and insolence occur, we content ourselves with visits in the cabins, and with the aforesaid special meetings,—[87] only now and then renewing our public utterance, in the proclamation of the Gospel, that at least it may serve to justify some day the goodness and mercy of God toward these peoples.

It was thought also that special assemblies of Captains and the elders of the village might be highly profitable. Judging rightly that this could not be hoped for except through some temporal attraction, the Father felt obliged to throw, each time, some cakes of tobacco into the midst of the assembly, which were immediately cut into pieces, and distributed by the principal Captains, or by their order. This succeeded as it was intended. It was in these assemblies that the Christian of la Conception, Joseph Chewatenhwa, was sometimes present, where he did wonders in praising and explaining our mysteries.

But it must be confessed that if God does not put his hand powerfully to such works, there is nothing to be gained but words and propositions that go up in smoke. There was a certain man in these special assemblies of Captains, who, casting down his skin or mantle, came up to the Fathers entirely naked, [88] presenting his head and his whole body to be baptized; but these were shoots that were out of season, of which neither flower nor fruit could be seen the next day.

Finally, having taken everything into consideration,—the period of a month, the time they had planned, having elapsed,—it was decided to receive