

another, pretending that it is not for them to begin; whole hours elapse in this debate. An elder who is favorable to us begins to speak, after having long been silent. "As for me," he said, "I am of the opinion that we begin with ourselves; we are assured that there are a great many sorcerers among us,—those would continue to cause us to die, even though we should have massacred all the black robes. Let us make a strict investigation of those wretches who bewitch us; then, when they shall have been put to death, if at that time the course of the disease does not cease, we will have reason to kill the French, and [78] to prove whether their massacre will stop the trouble." This thought for the time stopped the execution of their evil purpose.

The devil intrudes very far in these proceedings, since it is he who loses most in them.

In this connection, I will relate a thing which astonished us some days ago. Father Pierre Pijart having a dispute, in the village of saint Jean, with an old Magician of the country, this barbarian, having become angry, threatens him that we might surely make up our minds to die, and that already Echon (Father de Brebeuf) was stricken with disease. Father Pijart laughs at this old man,—it not being three hours since he had left Father de Brebeuf at the house of St. Joseph, in very good health. The Magician answers him: "Thou wilt see whether I am a liar; I have told thee enough." In fact, Father Pijart having returned the same day to St. Joseph, two good leagues distant, finds Father de Brebeuf attacked with a heavy fever, a pain in the stomach, and headache, and in all the symptoms of a severe illness; at the moment when the Magician