

to our Fathers about the mortality which was ravaging the whole country, and about the evil reports which were circulated against us, added: "Those are sheer calumnies; you have not left your native land, your goods, and all that you could hold dearest in this world, in order to come here and procure our death: what profit would you derive from it? But I see well that God is angry with us, because, having been sufficiently instructed, we refuse to believe and obey him. [106] However that may be, the misfortune began with Ihonatiria, which now finds itself ruined; and that is the place where, having first made your abode, you also first announced the word of God. Ossossané has since received you; most have refused to believe; in consequence, lo, the misfortune which assails us, and which ruins all our families. This year you have traversed the whole country; you have hardly found any one who would abandon what God forbids: immediately the trouble has spread everywhere, and the country finds itself ruined." What could one expect after so reasonable a speech, unless that he should surrender himself to God, and adore that power which he recognized as the avenger of their sins? But here follows a very different conclusion. "My opinion," he added, "would be that all the cabins should be closed to you; or, while allowing you to enter them, one should lower the head when you speak of God, and stop one's ears, without further disputing against you; for thus we should be less guilty, and God would not punish us so cruelly."

[107] Is not that obstinately resisting the Holy Ghost, and refusing to see what one sees? Would to God that this misfortune might not again occur, save