

the unbelievers that the Christian Savages had chains and bonds all ready to bind the refractory. Some Pagans told us that they were risking the ruin of everything, and that the Savages would kill one another. All this consoled us much, for we [21] took pleasure in seeing the union of the Christians; it is much more easy to temper fervor than to kindle it. It is well that the Savages feel these ardors, but we must not yield to all their desires; the customs of a people do not change so soon,—it is necessary to proceed with skill, gentleness, and patience.

Some time after these resolutions were taken, one of our Fathers having entered the cabin of one of the chief Savages who had received and approved them, this simple man looked at the Father with a sad eye, and said to him: “Nikanis, I am angry, I have grieved God. I have thought of going to Kebec to surrender myself as a prisoner, that I may spend four days without food or drink, according to that upon which we resolved; but I am waiting for thee to send me there.” The Father was surprised at these words, not knowing what to reply; this man, seeing him thoughtful, said to him: “Thou hast no courage; thou art distrustful of us all; thou art not firm enough; thou imaginest that if thou enjoimest these penances upon us, we would not do them. Make the trial now, in my case,—command me to go to prison; give me [22] a note, so that the door may be opened to me, and this instant I will set off in your presence.” The Father asked him if his fault really merited such a chastisement. “Yes,” said he, “I have grieved God; my sin is great. I struck my wife in anger; it is true that she irritated me, for, this morning, in going to Mass, I told her that she should fol-