

haps you do not know that I have ruled from my youth, that I was born to rule. As soon as I open my mouth, every one listens to me; it is also true that I bear up and maintain the whole country during the life of my grandchildren and my nephews,"—it is thus he calls his people. "Even the Hurons give ear to me, and I command among them; I rule them, as if I were Captain. I say not a word over there,—the rest speak; but there is nothing done except that which I have in my mind. I am like a tree,—men are the branches thereof, [29] to which I give vigor." To see a man wholly nude, who has neither covering for the feet, nor other raiment than a wretched bit of pelt, which screens only the half of his body; ill-favored by nature, having only half his eyes, for he is blind in one, and dried-up like an old tree without leaves,—to see, I say, a skeleton, or rather a ragamuffin, bear himself like a President, and speak like a King, is to see haughtiness and pride under rags. This Thraso and part of his people being in this mood, very soon came to disputing with our Christians. They taunted them, saying that faith and prayer made men die; that since some had been baptized, maladies had prevailed among them, and that, when they were taught another belief than that of their fathers, at that very time death exterminated them; that a part of those who have become Christians are concerting with the French to ruin the whole country of the Savages. They cite examples that they consider very forcible. "Such a one," they said, "having two wives, and not being inclined to obey the Captain of the French, fell [30] sick immediately; others died suddenly, who had abandoned their ancient customs." The Christians thereupon