

this artless man away with him, into the country of the Abnaquiois, promising him mountains and marvels, as they say; but this worthy Neophyte responded to him that, having heard of another life, he intended going to see those who were opening the way to it,—that the thing was of too great consequence to be neglected. “Perhaps I shall not have enough intelligence,” said he, “to comprehend what they shall tell me; but, at least, it is good to hear of these wonders.” He came to Saint Joseph, and Makheabichtichiou went away to the country of the Abnaquiois, where he was wretchedly slain this winter; his wives have returned very poor, his eldest son died like a dog, without baptism,—his family is ruined. Behold the end of those who shut their ears to the voice of God who is calling them.

[70] I see well that I shall say the same things, if I endeavor to report the good thoughts of others whom we have baptized; for our Lord gives them the same affections and the same inclinations. I will only say, by the way, that two marriageable young men urged us strongly to baptize them; finally when we put them off until after their marriage, because we have trouble in marrying the young Christians,—inasmuch as the marriage of Savages generally becomes confirmed only by a similarity of dispositions, or by the children whom God gives them, or by a lapse of time and long-continued and reciprocal intercourse with each other,—so when we put off our young people, promising them baptism when they should be married, they often came to us and said: “Either baptize us without marrying us, or else find maidens suitable for us. Dost thou wish to cause our perdition? If we should die in the woods, or if some acci-