

of a charity which had never been seen in these villages.

Meanwhile, the affairs of God were quietly managed; the children were baptized when they were considered in danger; the adults received with open heart the words of heaven, and hardly was one found who in the peril of death would not think of the salvation of his soul; even the relatives, when they had some sick patient, would come to notify our Fathers thereof.

Some effects of God's goodness over these poor barbarians increased still more their affection for us. A young man,—one of the greatest [149] hunters and warriors in the country, and one of the best connected in all this village,—was brought so low by the disease that they wholly despaired of him; he was instructed and baptized by one of our Fathers, who made a journey thither toward the end of the month of September. Shortly after, he returns to health, contrary to all hope; but he remains blind, and there stays with him an intolerable inflammation which spoils his eyes. A month later, our two missionaries, having arrived in this village, visited this Neophyte: he blesses God that he is cured, but he bewails his misery for having lost his sight, without which he can no longer love life. They exhort him to hope in God, with whom nothing is impossible; he protests that he believes; in proof of his belief, he gives up a tortoise shell,—which is, as it were, the lute and the violin of their concerts,—which he used in hunting, in order to invoke the aid of his demon.³ They apply to his eyes some holy water, with a sign of the cross, uttering these words: "May he whom you have taken for master, Our Lord,—the Father,