

Hell. Who doubts that we may fall again into our transgressions, through the force of our old habits which overpower us?" It is true that habits have a frightful influence on our hearts; but it is also true that Baptism is powerful, and that it makes strange metamorphoses. But this does not prevent some from relapsing under stress of circumstances, and under strong temptations,—which thing happened to this poor Neophyte of whom we are speaking; for, having fallen sick, and being in [133] most severe pain, and a Charlatan offering to chant for him after the fashion of the country, he consented thereto. The good Charles Sondatsaa, a Huron, and at the time a Catechumen, seeing this superstition, came to inform our Fathers. Immediately Father de Quen hastened to the cabins and found the Charlatan performing, and many Unbelievers around the patient; he began to inveigh against these remedies better adapted to kill the sick than to heal them; one of the company raised his hand to strike him, but restrained himself. The Father asked the sick man if he had any belief in this trifling, which he had himself practiced, and of which he knew only too well the powerlessness: the poor man, repenting of his fault, dismissed the Sorcerer. Some days thereafter, being better, he came to the Church, and in the presence of the French and of the Savages he publicly asked pardon for the scandal he had caused; and on his knees he implored all of the Christians to pray that God might be pleased to forgive his sin, and promised never to fall into it again. It is well to resist firmly in the beginning, for, even [134] to very slight faults, one gives way only too easily. This good Neophyte is now in the practice of pa-