

your cure so easy, without commanding you — as do your demons, who nevertheless are impotent — the sacrifice of stags, dogs, and bears. [158] Know, then, that if he has so much power to do you good, he will not have less power to chastise you if you do not serve him according to your promise." To that, no reply; a mind whereof the devil has regained possession is no longer capable of estimating the greatness of God, whom he before adored.

Notwithstanding all that, our missionaries pursue their point; Atironta, their host, who loves them, — and who, bearing the name of the first Huron Captain who met the French, has also his charge and his power,⁵ — assists them as far as he can to assemble a council of the Elders of the village, at which they can publicly demonstrate their innocence and refute these calumnies.

By a happy coincidence, Joseph Chihouatenhoua — that excellent Christian of whom we spoke in the preceding chapter — arrives in this same village, to assist our Fathers in such manner as they shall choose to employ him for the publication of the Gospel. The council is held; Father Antoine Daniel refutes the slanderers, and speaks with so much emphasis that not one dares to answer him. Joseph Chihouatenhoua [159] afterward begins to speak, and passes more than two entire hours in discoursing on the mysteries of our Faith. Those old Captains are greatly surprised to see a young man speak like a master, in a new language; they can but admire him. They approve the truths of our Faith, all the commandments of God seem reasonable to them, — in a word, they condemn themselves; and some exclaim that all the earth ought to heed such great concerns,