

and speeches of such importance. But, at the end, what blindness! not one embraces the truths which he acknowledges, not one adopts for himself the advice which he approves.

Nevertheless, this assembly and its result, which was favorable to us, appeased their minds somewhat; the grievances which they had against us, greatly diminished; they begin to receive our Fathers quite peaceably in most of the cabins, and the latter continue to announce the name of God to them, to the whole and to the sick. Some minds, of those who are not in disease, relish this, and [160] some even desire baptism; but we do not proceed so fast,—they must be tried; otherwise we should run the risk of having many people baptized, but very few Christians.

The mercy of God further appeared over the sick; in the single village of saint Jean Baptiste, more than 140 were baptized, most of whom are dead,—and among others, 40 little children, whose salvation is beyond doubt. The judgments of God are always adorable. Here follows what the Fathers of this mission write to me in the matter.

“Some receive baptism with an unspeakable joy, and know not how to express the grace that they experience, by means of loving colloquies, now before our Crucifix, now before the Image of the Savior of the world. ‘Alas!’ (said, among others, a young man of 25 years) ‘O! thou master of our lives! thou seest that I have no sense, and that I cannot speak; tell me, then, what it would please thee that I should say.’ And others, almost at the same time, blaspheme against God, having their souls on their lips. Lately, a war Captain, when we spoke to him of hell,