

young man had no sooner fallen sick than he of his own accord opened his eyes to the truth; the fear of hell, which until then he had considered a fable, made him think of Paradise: "Alas!" exclaimed he, "I am dying, and the Fathers are not here. Run to them, I beg you, my brother, wherever they may be" (said he to one of his elder brothers, chief Captain of this tribe) "run quickly, and let them know as soon as possible the peril in which I am." This brother set out in haste and came to our Fathers, who were 12 leagues distant. God knows with what anxiety they flew to this poor sick man, who opened his arms to them, asked their pardon, and longed for Baptism. When [37] God prepares a soul, and speaks to the depths of a heart, many words are not needed. He very soon received Baptism and at the same time peace of mind; and the little that remained to him of life he employed, even to the last moment, in saving himself from eternal woe.

However rebellious a soul may be against the truths of our faith, we must not despair of it before death. If God, who is the only one injured, await the hour of our salvation with so much patience and long-suffering, it is for us to follow his leadings and to reverence in all things the movements of his divine providence.

We have seen this again recently, in the person of another young man of the village of saint Ignace, who was named Joseph Tawatirhon. The Seminary of Quebec had maintained him two whole years, and he went out from it with the grace of a Christian and the fear of God; but at such an age it is very difficult to preserve so precious a treasure in the reign of shamelessness,—when he was again in his own