

time after the death of a young Frenchman,— who had conferred his name upon one of my children, that had been baptized,—I saw, while I was very sick, his soul, which called me to go to Heaven. When I recovered my senses, I concluded that I would not fail to go there as soon as the door should be opened to me. Now, as you told me that Baptism was the door of Heaven, I was in no haste to enter, seeing that I had to pass thither by death. The road is not very pleasant, though its end is most delightful. But that is all over; in resolving to receive Baptism, I am resolved to die. You assure me that this door of life will not lead me to death; whatever may happen, [54] since Baptism is a matter of such importance, I will gladly give my life to enjoy the blessings that it brings to the soul.” He will have no lack of trials and temptations before he comes to that. The devil assails him with dreams, which are the whole Theology of these poor Barbarians. One day, while he was hunting Beavers and wished to take his rest, he heard a voice—as he relates—which said to him: “Thou art a dead man if thou art baptized.” Add to this the erroneous idea that he had in his head, like some other Savages,—namely, that newly-baptized Christians are soon attacked by death, or by some serious illness, if they fail, however slightly, in keeping the promise they have made to God to follow his will. Now, as he did not consider that he had sufficient strength to observe the Laws of Christianity, and to render so strict an obedience, he looked upon Baptism in the same light as we look upon death or illness.

A virtuous wife is a great gift. This good Savage had received [55] such a favor from Heaven; his