

died in giving birth to her child, was away hunting when the sad event occurred. On his return, he was informed that his wife was in the grave; that the Fathers had assisted her at her death, had honored her at her funeral, and had greatly consoled her relatives, assuring them that she was in an abode of bliss, and that they should not be sorrowful for her happiness. At first the young man was [60] quite stunned; his heart was divided between sorrow and joy. Shortly afterward, he issued from his cabin, went to the Cemetery, fell on his knees by the grave or tomb of his wife, clasped his hands, and said this prayer: "Thou who hast made all things, take into thy house her whom thou hadst given to me. I do not wish for any other dwelling than that in which thou hast placed her soul; I promise thee that I will have myself baptized." He arose, came straight to our little house, and entered with clasped hands into the room of one of our Fathers. "Thou knowest well my heart," he said to him, "thou enterest into my mind. My wife was a daughter of God. She is in Heaven; that is where I wish to go after my death. Hasten to baptize me; I do not wish to go to the land of Demons; Heaven is my country." The Father, fearing that love for a woman moved him more strongly than the desire of pleasing God and of enjoying his glory, spoke to him at first about getting instructed, and then tried him for a sufficiently long time to see whether the thought of Baptism would not disappear with the remembrance of his wife. His sorrow grew less, but his desire increased from day to day. Finally, as he was in haste to go out hunting and as he was put off to a future [61] day, he crossed the great River.