

we will not touch them during our journey,—the whole country must see them; the chief men must taste them at a feast that we shall give, at which your love and your generosity will be the principal dishes. We thank you also for all the favors that you have done us throughout the winter. You have invited us to your feasts; there was not a House or a Cabin in which we were not received with joy; every one has shown us friendship and affection. As to the belief which we have embraced with you, it is an important matter, which concerns Heaven. We will give up life rather than the Faith. It seems to me that I no longer see anything to dread down here on earth, since I no longer see anything to lose. To give up life, in order to enjoy eternal happiness, is not a loss but [89] a great gain. It is four years since Achian-dase and Oracha"—thus they name Father Jérôme l'Alemand and Father Charles Garnier—"came to see us in our Village to instruct us, and urged me to be baptized. Their discourse did not please me; I sent them my nephews and nieces, to occupy them. As for me, I rejected the matter, thinking that its consideration should be deferred to some other time. But, at present, my heart feels such pleasure and such strength that I think that nothing can shake my Faith. What I say for myself, you must think also of my companion; for one mouth tells you the thoughts and resolutions of both our hearts. We have agreed together that, as soon as we set foot in our own country, we will give as solemn a feast as possible, and there we will declare before the most important people of our Village that we are baptized; that we renounce all our follies; that we abhor our former customs, which are full