

The inconstancy of marriages and the facility with which they divorce each other, are a great obstacle to the Faith of Jesus Christ. We do not dare to baptize the young people, though they may be very well disposed, because experience teaches us that the custom of abandoning a disagreeable wife or husband has a strong hold on them. A good woman had a daughter about fifteen years of age, who was better instructed than her mother, because her memory was better. The Father administered Baptism to the mother, and refused it to the daughter. But it was pleasant to see the latter acting as a sort of Godmother to her parent; for the good old woman could hardly remember the answers that she had to give. Her daughter prompted her,—very joyfully, because she saw her mother a Christian; and sorrowfully, because she was deprived of the same happiness. When this good woman was baptized, she would say to her daughter, whenever her infirmities prevented her from attending Mass: [143] “My child, go and tell the Father to pray for me in the Chapel; and that, if I could go there, it would be all my consolation.” Feasts at which all gorge themselves, Sorcerers, drums, superstitious songs and dances, are almost no longer seen. The charmed stones that make men lucky at play, or in the chase, are held in esteem only by some stubborn persons, who produce them in secret only, for fear of being jeered at by the faithful. They are even afraid to sing and dance at their feasts, lest they might be drawn towards their former superstitions. A Neophyte who was urged to sing and dance at a feast, at which Savages of other Nations were present,