

France, because it is usual there to proceed in that manner. But, among these peoples—where every one considers himself, from his birth, as free as the wild animals that roam their great forests—it is a marvel, or rather a miracle, to see a peremptory command obeyed, or any act of severity or justice performed. Some Savages, having heard that, in France, malefactors are put to death, have often reproached us, saying that we were cruel,—that we killed our own countrymen; and that we had [40] no sense. They asked whether the relatives of those who were condemned to death did not seek vengeance. The Infidels still have the same ideas; but the Christians are learning, more and more, the importance of exercising Justice.

A certain Neophyte, who was very zealous for the Faith, was diligently performing a pious action, when another said to him: “Stop! some will be angry with thee; those who are not baptized will hate thee.” “It matters not,” he replied; “I do not fear death. Let them kill me, let them slay me; I will not give up a good action for their ungodliness. My life is not so precious as the Faith.”

In the preceding Relation, I mentioned a certain Huron, named Charles Tsondatsaa, who was Baptized last year in the little Church of St. Joseph. This good Neophyte came this year, with some others of his countrymen, to visit the Christians of this Church; and these good people showed them many kindnesses. They invited them to feasts, and, after many declarations of good will,—including, moreover, a mutual exchange of presents,—a Captain [41] of St. Joseph stopped them after the public prayers which are said daily in the Chapel, at which the