

meets, and overthrows the cabins. No one answers him. He takes an arquebus, raises it, and fires three or four shots into the face of the boy of whom I speak,—knocking out four or five teeth, breaking his jaw on one side, splitting his lip, and covering his face with blood and wounds. They think that it is all over with him; and the worst of it is that he does not know of his misfortune, because he is intoxicated. Finally, he recovered his senses, and so well were his wounds dressed that he was cured of them; but he remained so disfigured that none of those who knew him could recognize him, even by his voice. That was an effect of drunkenness that was, nevertheless, fortunate in his case, and perhaps a result of his predestination. For, acknowledging the hidden hand that had struck him, he commenced to fear it, and made himself fit to receive Baptism, which Monsieur de Courpon the Admiral of [226] the fleet, honored as he had done several others, by having some rounds fired from the cannon.

Divine protection is manifested in the case of our Neophytes, as well as justice. A young woman who was baptized one day, went on the following one, with another, and a little child in swaddling clothes, to gather some of the fruits of the country. On her return, the canoe upset. What was she to do? To let her child perish would have been a greater affliction than to lose her own life. To try and save it would cause the death of both mother and child. She recommended herself to God, and swam with one hand, pushing with the other the board on which the child was bound, according to their fashion;⁵ but, unfortunately, he had turned over on his face, and was immersed in the water. God had pity on both