

two tapers, as we do in our Chapels; to meet all together, and to sing Hymns and Canticles; to say their prayers aloud; to recite their rosary, and to listen to those who sometimes spoke to them of prayer—that is, of the doctrine of Jesus Christ. If any one committed a sin that came to the knowledge of the others, he was assured that the Father would be told of it. Consequently, they are the first to accuse themselves thereof; and, if through neglect they have failed to attend these public prayers, they make confession of it, with as much regret as good souls would do who had missed holy Mass. These good people related that they had met a band of Algonquins, some of whom had been baptized somewhat [233] hastily. The latter invited them to superstitious feasts, but these Neophytes would never attend them. They were surprised that these people, who called themselves Christians, did not kneel night and morning to pray to God; and what made them very indignant was, that in the debris of their abandoned cabins they found pictures that the former had thrown away or at least forgotten. They picked these up, and brought them very reverently to Father Dequen. One must not be too precipitate or too hasty in baptizing savages, nor trust a four days' fervor.

After rendering an account of what had publicly occurred since they had seen a Father, it was necessary to enter into more minute details, and all prepared themselves for confession. Frenchmen could not believe with what candor, clearness, and knowledge of their sins the savages confess themselves; it is what we could hardly have hoped for. Parents bring their children to enjoy that blessing; they teach them what they should say, [234] remind them