

on the ground. A Christian who came to see him did for him some of the things that he had seen him do when visiting the sick. He knelt at his bedside, raised his eyes to Heaven, and offered this prayer to God in a rather loud voice: "Thou who hast made all, thou seest well that our Father is sick. Pray, then, cure him, for we need him. It is he who instructs us, and who teaches how we should believe in thee." Having said this, he took his rosary, and recited it in honor of the blessed Virgin. But, as he was rather long about it, and [244] the Father needed rest,—probably because his illness was due to overwork,—he dismissed the good Neophyte, and thanked him for his visit.

Some savages, who had heard of works of atonement, penances, and mortification of the body, said that it was necessary that they also should appease God; that those who were baptized did so. Some chose fasting; others chastised themselves, and beat themselves with thorns, to atone to him who has made all, as they say, and to be avenged on those who have offended him. These penances were performed privately, but here is one that was public.

It is impossible to hinder the avarice of some of the French who, in spite of the prohibitions and of the risk of being punished, still sell brandy and wine to the savages. It is likewise very difficult to prevent barbarians, who are not accustomed to these liquors, from sometimes becoming intoxicated. Some Christians offended in this respect and the Father wished to punish them publicly, in order to give [245] an example to the others. It is proper at the very outset, in such matters, to punish public offenses by public chastisements, so as to make the Infidels