

never seen, more than the flames and torments that I suffered while with the Iroquois. I have even been told that several rejoiced at the news of my captivity, and blamed for it the God whom I adore; that they said that he was powerless; and that I was not to be pitied for the misfortunes that had befallen me, because the calamity in which he had abandoned me would prevent others from following my example, from becoming Christians, and from serving a Master who would doubtless have neither the power nor the will to make us happy forever, inasmuch as he did not begin even in this life to make us feel the effects of this love of his.

“ My brothers,” he added, “ I do not know what God’s designs are respecting me. When [55] my misfortunes were at their height, I did not dare to ask him either for death or for life, because I thought that I was a child, who did not know what was good for me; that he who was my Father had more wisdom for guiding me than I; and that he would not fail in love for me, so long as I did not fail to have confidence in him. I am now delivered, almost against my hopes. I know not whether it is not you who have been the cause of it, through your horrible blasphemies. I think that God has chosen to confound you in your thoughts; that he has intended to do justice to himself in my person, and to show you that he had not abandoned me, and that he will never fail, either in power or in love, for those who belong to him. I am sure that those who rejoiced at my capture must now feel confusion in their hearts; that they must blush with shame; that they themselves condemn their own wisdom, when they see that God has derived his glory even from my