

midst of an entirely infidel nation, as if they lived with a wholly Christian people; if to this I add that they all pray to God publicly, morning and evening; that they understand and enjoy our mysteries; that they confess themselves at least once a week; that they practice virtue, and have a horror of vice; in a word, that their lives preach more eloquently than our utterances, and force the most Infidel to respect the Faith, whatever hatred they may have of it; it is because here we see with our own eyes what God is working in their hearts, and what Heaven admires in a barbarous country, which for five thousand years had never known its Creator. And since the blood of Jesus Christ has been shed for them as well as for us, why should we not hope that the conversion of these peoples will go on increasing, that the Faith will reign among them, and that the Cross will in the end be planted everywhere in this new world? "Do not lose courage," a Christian savage said to us, some time ago. "Our number increases daily; that of the [66] Infidels decreases. Most of them know the truth well enough, and are the first to laugh at the superstitions of the country. They dread the fire of hell. Human considerations alone keep back those who have the best minds. When we shall be a little stronger, you will see that they will join us all of a sudden. The whole of our village will be Christian, and then Faith will make its way, without resistance, among all the others who have their eyes on us."

I remember, in connection with this, a harangue delivered last winter by an Infidel Captain of the same village, inviting those who were under him to a superstitious dance of the country, and at the