

Rivers, in the encounter with the Iroquois,—the first news that he heard was that his mother had died since his departure. At first, his heart was touched, because he loved her dearly; [69] but, as soon as he broke his silence, he asked first of all if she had died a good Christian. “Yes,” he was told. At this word he clasped his hands and, raising his eyes to Heaven, he said, “My God, who could complain of you? She is happy in Heaven, and now she can no longer offend you. Provided that I and my relatives all die in the Faith, I cannot regret this life, either for them or for me. Hasten our death, if it please you, for thereby you will hasten our happiness.” When he arrived at his own village, the Christians who went to console him were more disconsolate than he was, and it was he who consoled them. “My brothers,” he said to them, “let us not speak of what I have lost, but let us think of the great blessings that await us in Heaven. Your tears as well as mine will be changed into joy, and the Infidels will see by our faces that we have Faith and the hope of Paradise in our hearts. Let us enter the Chapel, and praise God for everything.”

It is he who is the custodian of this Chapel, in which all the Christians and Catechumens [70] pray, night and morning. Moreover, as many of them need instruction, he takes care of the men when the Fathers who have charge of this Mission are absent, or are too much occupied; and his wife, who is not inferior to him, either in intelligence or in virtue, undertakes the instruction of the women, with such love and joyfulness that it is a pleasure to see their holy rivalry, each duly promoting the concerns of God. By day, he visits all those whom he considers