

[78] The third of these Neophyte Captains is the chief of a band of about three hundred warriors, who lived a day's journey from the Iroquois that are nearest to the Hurons, but who, when they saw themselves exposed to the enemy, left their country about five years ago, brought their families here, and since then have been scattered here and there among the Huron villages. This Captain is named Martin Tehoachiakwan. He is a brave man, who breathes but war; and his life is but a series of combats. He was the intimate friend of the great warrior Eustache Ahatsistari, of whom we have already spoken, and had promised him during his lifetime that he would follow him in the Faith. But the misfortune that happened to his friend, so soon after he had received Baptism, made us suppose that those promises would not be fulfilled,—that, on the contrary, he would have an aversion to the Faith; that he would dread Baptism, and would be confirmed in the general opinion of these countries, that to become a Christian is to renounce life, and to call down death upon oneself. God however has turned our losses to our advantage. His ways are [79] remote from our thoughts and he ordains that the death of one Christian shall be the seed and germ of another. It was then that this Captain, while still an Infidel, felt his heart more deeply touched, and began to fear hell-fire more than death; and then the thought of being one day happy in Heaven, with the soul of the friend whom he regretted, induced him to enter upon the road to it. “No,” he said to the Father who taught him, “thou wouldst already have baptized me if thou couldst have seen my heart; thou wouldst have been convinced that I wish to do right, and