

that, whatever happens, I desire to live and to die a Christian." "Dost thou wish me to be damned?" he said another time; "I am continually either hunting in the woods or fighting the enemy. Wherever I go, I am in danger of my life; and fire, rather than old age, will consume this carcass that thou seest. What will become of my soul, if thou dost not wash away my sins? Dost thou wish me to throw myself from one misfortune into another, and to die without being baptized?"

A day having been fixed for his Baptism, he gathered all his people together. "My nephews," he said to them, [80] "the enemies are at our doors. Let all escape who can. Reproach me, if you have ever seen me pale in the midst of peril; but, this time, I confess to you that I have lost courage. I withdraw from misfortune; let who will, follow me; our affairs are in a desperate state." They thought, when they heard him, that a hostile army was at the frontiers of the country, and that he had received sure news of it. Some thought of fighting, others of retreating; all were seized with fear. Finally, when he saw them thus moved, he began again to speak. "My nephews," he said, "I do not fear the Iroquois; I dread the more inhuman cruelties of the devils in hell, in a fire that is never extinguished. I abandon you, without abandoning you, or rather I abandon your follies; I abandon our evil customs; from this moment, I renounce all kinds of sin, and know ye that to-morrow I shall be a Christian."

These Baptisms of persons of such importance have brought about many others. But what consoles us still more is, to see that the spirit of Faith gains more and more the ascendancy in their [81] souls;