

[7] CHAPTER II.

OF SOME GOOD ACTIONS AND OF SOME GOOD SENTIMENTS OF THE CHRISTIAN SAVAGES.

I WOULD only use repetitions were I to mention the prayers said by the Christians, every night and morning. Their hunting and the Iroquois kept them away from the Church throughout the winter, but neither men nor Demons could prevent them from performing their minor duties toward God. They take with them to the woods a memorandum or short Catalogue of the Festival days, which they observe with much respect, for men born and brought up in the forests like beasts. They all assemble in one Cabin, say their prayers publicly, and sing a Hymn, and sometimes one of them will give a discourse on some points of our belief. These Meetings do not prevent each one from saying his prayers again in his Cabin, on rising [8] and on going to sleep. If they are near the Church, the bell calls them every day to Mass, and summons them at evening for prayers and instruction. This goes on regularly—in such manner, however, that some advance much faster than others.

When they return from their long hunts, they usually confess themselves twice before receiving Communion. They give as a reason for this that their memory is short; that they have neither paper nor ink, as we have, wherewith to write down their sins; and that, if they omit some through forgetfulness at