

penance; each one decided what he wished to give and what he wished to receive. Some asked to be given twenty blows, others ten,—some more, some less. The Father, who was about to say Mass, was surprised at the sight of this new devotion, which he did not expect from a people who know not yet what it is to [44] suffer for God. He did not wish to interrupt it at once, for fear of opposing the workings of the holy Ghost. He merely took care that it did not go beyond the bounds of prudence, and that there were no excesses. The penance was so general, that the innocent wished to share it with the guilty. Even the children were not spared; their fathers and mothers made them approach the Altar, took off their little garments, and begged him who held the whip to chastise them at his discretion, in proportion to their age and strength,—alleging that this chastisement was already due to their disobedience. These poor victims went there cheerfully; they knelt before the Altar, clasped their hands, and, without shrinking or shedding one little tear, they received the blows from the whip, which were gently delivered on their innocent flesh. Some of the mothers even struck with their Rosaries, in the manner of the discipline, their little children still at the breast. A good old man—a Christian, who came from the settlement of saint Joseph and who had only just [45] arrived at Tadoussac—happened, very opportunely, to be present at this holy Ceremony. He was so touched by it that he cried out aloud that he was a sinner and wished to do penance with the others. He came forward, as he uttered these words, prostrated himself on the ground, presented his bare shoulders, and received at once what he fervently