

chooses the proper moment for opening his Paradise to them. Here is an example which has often made me adore his divine ways.

A young man—a Catechumen, who could not obtain Baptism from us because we did not see clearly enough into his Faith—resolved to go to war with some Christians. They said their public prayers, night and morning; the oldest of the Christians presided at them, and on Sundays he exhorted them to pass that sacred day in a more holy manner, and, since they could not enjoy the blessing of confession, at least to have recourse to God, to detest their sins, and to keep themselves prepared for death. [177] I know not what pressed this young Neophyte so strongly; but, for over seventy days, he kept asking for Baptism from the oldest of our Christians, with such fervor in his requests that finally he was promised that he should be baptized on the Sunday. “No,” said he, “my soul pants but for the sacred waters of Baptism. I detest with all my heart the sins of my past life; I hope that God will have pity on me, because he has witnessed the true desire that I have to live and die a Christian.” He was therefore baptized; and, strange to say, the prayers were not yet ended when the advance guard brought the news that they perceived the enemy. All immediately hasten to arms, and take the field; the enemy flees, and is pursued for six whole hours. The newly-baptized man leaves his comrades behind, and advances so far that he finds himself alone, surrounded by thirty Hiroquois, who pierce him with javelin-thrusts, remove his scalp, and continue their flight without one of them being caught.

One of the most right-minded men of this Coun-