

must not jeer at a thing so Holy. It is our custom to pray to God; he will punish those who despise him." Those Barbarians, having learned what she was saying, broke out in derision, mocking at the piety and devotion of their captives. Pierre *Achkameg*, who had become a wolf among the wolves, was touched; he lowered his head without saying a word, respecting the prayers which he had formerly uttered with his own lips. The women were not frightened by these shouts and taunts,—those who carried their children with them had them make the sign of the Cross; and not one, small or great, would eat without making this sign in the presence of their enemies. They used their fingers to recite their rosary,—the Hiroquois having pillaged and taken away from them everything that they had, even to the smallest tokens of their devotion. Before leaving that river, they burned alive that man who had been wounded, fearing lest he should die on the way, by a death less cruel; it is strange how pleasant, and almost natural, is cruelty to these Barbarians. We have learned all these particulars from those who have escaped from the hands and the country of those treacherous people. [17] These related to us that one man, having detached himself, had been overtaken in his flight; and that they had burned the soles of his feet, in order to prevent him from fleeing another time. We have been assured that those Tyrants crucified a little baptized child, aged three or four years, by stretching its body upon a great piece of bark and piercing its little hands and feet with pointed sticks. These unheard-of cruelties give us plainly to understand that these peoples are not far from the limit of their crimes.