

some Hiroquois, who will make me pass through the usual torments; it is better, then, to die more quietly." Having said her prayer, she fastens her belt to a tree, up which she climbs; she makes at the other end a running knot, which she slips about her neck, and throws herself down. The weight of her body broke the cord without doing her great injury; she mends it, tries it, and then climbs up again; but God willed that it should break for the second time. She, much astonished, begins to say apart to herself, with sober sense,— for she believed she was doing a good act:— "Yes: but perhaps God does not wish me to die. Surely, he wishes to save my life; but I have not wherewith to live by the way. Is he not powerful enough to cause me to find something? Come," she said, "let us entreat him to guide me." Having said her prayer, she enters into the depth of those great [32] woods, and guides herself by the sight of the Sun, seeking the way to her own country. So there she was, wandering in a horrible solitude; as there was still snow on the ground, she suffered an intolerable hunger and cold. She ate, in ten days, nothing but those ears of corn, which she had gleaned; having consumed them, she scratched the earth in order to find little roots; she skinned the trees in order to suck and eat the thin inner bark. Finally, she came across, in a place where some Hiroquois hunters had lodged, a little hatchet, which they had abandoned or forgotten. That saved her life: her skill enabled her to make a wooden fire-stick, with which she made fire during the night, and not during the day;³⁰ she extinguished it as soon as the dawn began to break, for fear that the smoke would appear and reveal her. "Having offered