

themselves criminal even to have been the object of an infamous pursuit.

“It must be,” said one of them with tears in his eyes, “that latterly the devil has perceived that my faith has become weakened, since he so little conceals the designs which he has on me; our enemies do not openly attack a Village which they know to be well defended.” And, having related, to that one of our Fathers to whom he had recourse, the violent means that he had just employed in order to withdraw himself from the hands of some shameless women, he added: “Five years ago, I was taken captive by the Iroquois; but even then, when the enemies threw themselves on me, I had less terror than I felt at the approach of these wretched creatures.”

Here follows, in this connection, a conversion which seems to me quite remarkable. One of those dissolute girls, having perceived that all [50] her endeavors had no power over the mind of a young Christian, returned to herself, and decided that our faith must needs be something excellent, since, even at an age which values only pleasures, it gave aversion and horror for them to those who had embraced it. She made inquiry of a young Christian girl, and asked her if she really believed that there was a Hell; and how she could be sure that the French, who came to instruct them, did not tell them lies. “I believe it firmly,” answered the Christian girl; “but even though that should be a doubtful thing, the very thought that perhaps there is a Hell for those who remain infidels, ought to make you dread a misfortune so terrible. Otherwise, we are mistaken, when we go into our fields throughout the Summer, in