

In a word, he made himself the umpire of the seasons of the year,—provided that the people had recourse to him, and rendered homage to the Demon whom he invokes. This arrogant one, seeing that a Christian there present did not, like the others, betoken any sign of astonishment [71] at the recital of so many marvels, took him aside, and told him, very rudely, that he was without sense, not to admire his power; and that it was a mark of his madness, that he had become a Christian.

“In truth,” gently answered him the Christian, “I have had only compassion for thee, hearing thy discourse; I am not obstinate, however, and am ready to admire thy wonders, provided that I see them. Cause a mountain to rise here, in the sight of every one who hears us; then I will acknowledge that truly thy power is great. But if thou canst not do it, allow me to adore him alone who has made all the mountains. Teach us here the principles of thy wisdom; we shall see whether it is more adorable than his. At least, if thou knowest his commandments, thou wilt admit that they are more equitable than thine.” This poor Magician was constrained to withdraw, to his own confusion, and since then has not returned.

But what most astonishes the infidels, on such occasions, is [72] that they see that many, who previously seemed to them quite ordinary minds, appear wholly changed when they have become Christians. And, in fact, the faith greatly enlightens a mind; the support of a good cause furnishes excellence of argument; and our Savages quite easily acquire a very blessed liberty when, having become Christians, they think that they have no more fear in this world but God and sin.