

It is about three years since a Captain, one of the most influential in all the country, named Maurice Hotaouitaentonk, of the Village of la Conception, became a Christian. The whole country is astonished to see the courage and the constancy of this man in his faith, and still more, his innocence, which is preserved intact, in the midst of the continual opportunities which invite him to sin. Some Christians were asking him one day, how he could live in the midst of so many dangers, with so great innocence. "My brothers," he said to them, "the river which goes down from here to Quebec is [79] nothing but rapids; and yet we make few shipwrecks on it, because we are always on our guard, and at each turn we fear to lose both our goods and our lives. The more a canoe is laden with precious wares, the more watchful one is to elude the rocks and the whirlpools which are there encountered. Since I have received holy Baptism, all my treasure is in my heart, and my faith is my most precious wealth. I dread sin more than we fear the shipwrecks; at each step I think that I have much to lose, and that I guide a feeble vessel,—but one, nevertheless, laden with the riches which come from Heaven. I foresee the dangers; I pray God that he assist me; I distrust myself, and confide in his goodness; and never shall I believe myself in safety, till I have arrived in Heaven. He who should have nothing or little to lose would fall quite easily."

We began this year, during Lent, to expound to our Christians the Gospel for each day, and the fruits of it have appeared to us very noticeable. A good old man, having heard the Gospel about the adulterous woman, could repress neither [80] his cries nor