

in order to honor prayer. No sooner said than done: they figure and paint their faces, after their fashion, with various colors; they take their great robes of Beavers, of Otters, of Lynxes, of black Squirrels, and of other animals, and their embellishments of [203] porcupine quills, dyed in scarlet, are not wanting. The women put on their great bracelets, and the men their collars and crowns, of porcelain. The Hurons and the other tribes, seeing this display, were much astonished, not knowing the object of this pomp. When our people were on the point of entering their Church, Captain Paul Wetamourat exclaimed to all those tribes: "Be not astonished at what we do,—we are about to pray and honor him who has made everything. Our custom now is such, that not one of all those who are not baptized shall set foot in our assembly, if he do not wish to incur the indignation of him who is all-powerful." Every one remained silent; some Christian Hurons, chancing to be in that great company, and seeing that it was a question of prayer, produce their Crosses and their rosaries, protesting aloud that they were Christians. The Captain, filled with joy, embraces them and has them enter the Church; there, each one sang and prayed in his own language the praises of the great God, and Jesus Christ was adored in the very depth of Barbarism,—in the midst of the forests which were [204] known, not long ago, only by fauns and satyrs, or, rather, by Demons and their imps. The Pagans, who had never seen anything similar, approaching that holy assembly and looking at their postures, remained utterly astonished, without saying a word; but their speech and their prayers impelled these to far greater admiration;