

protested that he had nothing more at heart than to live according to the laws and the commands of his God.

[81] As they live in the midst of the French, it happened that a young man went to visit them during their meal, and they offered him a piece of beaver meat. He took it, and ate it without asking a blessing. A woman who observed this said to him: "If my grandson did not pray to God before eating, I would punish him." The Frenchman was quite ashamed, and tried to excuse himself; but in his heart he condemned himself.

On another occasion, a Father entered their cabins and saw a young woman weeping bitterly. He asked her what the reason was. "My nephew is dead," she said; "that is the cause of my tears." "What," replied the Father, "didst thou think that his body was immortal?" "It is not for his body that I grieve; it is his soul that causes my sorrow and regret, for he died without confession, and I fear that he may be in hell." "Give up that apprehension, and pray for him," said the Father; "for, as he had received Baptism, and feared to offend him who has made all, it is probable that he is not damned, but that he may [82] be in Purgatory." "I have thought of that," she replied, "and I have already prayed for him; I have recited my rosary three times; I have invoked all the Saints in Heaven; I have implored the assistance of the little children who have died after their baptism; I have prayed to those of our nation who are in Paradise; still all that is but little. Tell me, my Father, what I can do, within my power, for the relief of that soul, and I will cheerfully do it."