

following Sunday, [120] he went to the cabin that served as a chapel; there he knelt before a Crucifix that stood in the middle of that Church built of bark. The chief man among the Christians spoke in the name of the whole assembly, and told him that he had committed a grievous fault in marrying without giving notice in the Church; that he had greatly scandalized all the believers and, therefore, was unworthy to remain in their company; that he could pray to God in private but that his sin could be expiated only by a good confession, which he should make when they returned to three Rivers. The poor man withdrew without saying a word, and, when he came down to the French settlements some months afterward, he presented himself to receive whatever penance the Father would be pleased to impose on him. He wished to flog himself before all the members of his tribe, but he was permitted only to beg their pardon. When his Countrymen saw him in that humiliation, they said to him: "Now thou hast given satisfaction to God and to his Church, and thou mayst pray with us." Would to our [121] Lord that this fire may never die out and that that which is to burn the world may still find it in all its vigor.

In the preceding Summer, we had baptized a young woman who, on returning to her own country, fell very ill. When she saw that she was losing her strength, she was seized with great anguish because she believed that she would die without confession. "I have never yet confessed," she said. "If God had taken me immediately after my baptism, I would have been consoled; but I cannot make up my mind to die without being purified in the Sacrament of