

listened; the French [155] residents met with them. An Interpreter, who held the ordinance in his hand, read it to the French; he then handed it to a Savage Captain, interpreting its meaning to him, so that he might publish it among his people. It contained a prohibition on the part of Monsieur the Governor, and of the Captains of the Savages, to sell or purchase those liquors, and especially to drink of them to excess, on penalty of the punishments set forth in the ordinance; also an order to all who had abandoned or who would not profess the Faith to leave that Residence, where neither Monsieur our Governor nor the Captains of the Savages would allow any Apostate to remain. From the beginning of the world to the coming of the French, the Savages have never known what it was so solemnly to forbid anything to their people, under any penalty, however slight. They are free people, each of whom considers himself of as much consequence as the others; and they submit to their chiefs only in so far as it pleases them. Nevertheless, [156] the Captain delivered a powerful harangue; and, inasmuch as he well knew that the Savages would not recognize the prohibition enacted by a Frenchman, he repeated these words several times: "It is not only the Captain of the French who speaks to you but also such and such Captains," whose names he mentioned. "I also assure you with them that, if any one should be guilty of the prohibited offenses, we will give him up to the laws and the usages of the French." This is the most important public act of jurisdiction that has ever been performed among the Savages since I have been in this new World. It is good to bring them gradually under the control of those whom God has