

restored to her, not full power of vision, but as much as was necessary [129] for finding her way, and for going about to comfort the Christian women and girls, who, like herself, were groaning under the weight of a harsh captivity. She formed little gatherings; instructed, catechized, encouraged, and taught them, and induced her companions to pray. In a word, God enabled her to perform, in that land of horror and darkness, the office of a dogique or a preacher. Having learned, then, that the woman we are speaking of was ill, she betook herself to her cabin and reminded her of what she had formerly learned concerning our belief. Seeing that the sick woman took pleasure in these discourses, she pursued her point,—she passed the night by her side, induced her to ask pardon for her faults, and exhorted her to desire holy Baptism that she might escape the punishments and enjoy the rewards which she set before her. This poor creature, animated by a spirit stronger than her own, promised God that she would seek every means of being baptized, if his goodness would deliver her from the death she was expecting. Her prayer was granted, and she recovered; and desiring, in consequence, to go back to her own country, in order to fulfill her promise, her heart [130] struggled with conflicting thoughts. She had a little son, aged about 7 or 8 years, for whom she entertained a singular love; her husband loved her dearly; she enjoyed full liberty in the Hyroquois villages, and her husband's relations looked kindly on her. She hazarded the chance of being burned, or roasted alive, in the event of being overtaken in her flight. She purposed going to a country that had been laid waste,—where, perchance, not one of her relations