

A hunter, who had received some instruction, fell on his knees to thank God, after having killed a large Stag; his comrade began to jeer. "I have," said he, "learned this from the Christians. The other made game of him, and pushed him with his foot, to make him rise, saying that he had always lived well, up to that time, without such follies; and that his good fortune [138] depended not on our ceremonies. Some time afterward, this braggart, having set out in his canoe, was wrecked, and came back quite woebegone, and half dead. Our hunter said to him: "If thou hadst prayed to the God of the Christians, perhaps he would have preserved thee from this misfortune." The miserable man again mocked at him; but, venturing once more on the water, in fair weather, his frail bark canoe again upset. It was with difficulty that his body was rescued from the gates of death; God grant that his soul may receive life. However, our hunter, affected by this chastisement, came and told us that a man named Atcheens, Captain of the Yroquet nation, had charged him to become baptized. "Do not as I did," he said to him. "I made light of Baptism during life; I wish for it in the hour of death, and cannot have it. Ah! how I regret having to die in a spot far distant from the French; my heart is sad; I am deprived of the one blessing that could comfort me. Be wise, my dear friend; wait not thy conversion till death." To conclude; this good hunter was received into the number of the Catechumens.

[139] Let us say a word or two about the Atticamegues, and finish this Chapter. These people delegated a true Israelite among them to come and see us, and to take back to their own country the