

from me all my possessions; the young people were becoming more and more numerous and insolent; and the word of God was listened to only with scorn and mockery. I was therefore compelled to abandon this post, and withdraw again to our customary abode, having [72] this consolation upon leaving them, that Jesus Christ had been preached and the Faith proclaimed—not only publicly, but to each Savage in private; for, besides those who filled our Chapel from morn till eve, the others, who remained in their Cabins, were taught by those who had heard me.

“ I have myself overheard them in the evening, after all had retired, repeating audibly and in the tone of a Captain, all the instruction which I had given them during the day. They freely acknowledge that what I teach them is very reasonable; but license prevails over reason, and, unless grace is very strong, all our teachings are of slight effect.

[73] “ Upon the occasion of a visit from one of them for the purpose of being instructed, at the first words I spoke to him, about his having two wives, ‘ My brother,’ he rejoined, ‘ thou speakest to me on a very delicate subject; it is enough for my children to pray; teach them.’

“ After I had left that village of abomination, God led me two leagues from our dwelling, where I found three adult sick persons; these I baptized, after adequate instruction, and two of them died after their Baptism. God’s mysterious ways excite our admiration, and I could cite many very similar illustrations of them which show the loving care of providence for its Elect.”