

married only according to the rites of the church. And God has given so great a blessing that divorce has thus far been a very infrequent occurrence, and the one who has effected it is held in abomination. It is fully twenty years since the mission was founded, and one would not find twenty husbands who have left their wives; and those who have left them have always returned, after some years, to die in the village. For this condition in which the savages are, no reason is adduced save the power of God, who can strengthen minds lighter than wind and down—for such are the minds of savages. Although many marriages have occurred in past years, the marriage records indicate still more this year. But if God has allowed some to break their word, it has been only to show us young women living alone like angels, and thereby facilitating for many the way to perpetual virginity. This has happened in the case of two who have lately carried it to heaven—as is noted in the following years.

*husband
and a wife
being
unable to
agree, an
old savage
woman told
them that
they lived
together
like people
who sin,
because no
holy water
had been
sprinkled on
them at
their
marriage.*

1675.

This increase of faith and virtue among the savages led to the belief that they were just as fit for christianity as are the other peoples of the earth. There had been sown, four years ago, the seeds of a devotion which is great in this country; they call it "the holy family." Father pierçon had given rosaries of the Holy family to some chosen persons—the first was catherine Gandeakteua; but he had not made the explanation thereof. This gave occasion to the savages to ask for it the more urgently, because they knew that it had been taught to the savages of Lorette. Father fremin, judging