

“and consider well if thou believest; for, if thou liest in thy heart, God will not cure thy child.” “I believe,” said she, “let them baptize him.” The Father found himself in a rather difficult position; for he understood perfectly that this woman gave consent to the baptism of her child only in the hope of his recovery; and that, consequently, if the child died, which all were expecting, [55] she would be certain to greatly decry this Sacrament. Nevertheless, as he could not see him die before his eyes, he resolved to baptize him,—asking the parents, in case he recovered, to give him to us when he grew larger, to instruct him. At this request the mother again became obstinate. “I see plainly that he wishes to have my son; he shall not have him.” Her husband, turning toward the Father, said, “Dost thou ask my son for all time, or simply to instruct him?” “I only want him to instruct him, and not that until he is six or seven years old.” “Baptize him, thou canst have him;” and, urging his wife, he assured her that they would restore her her child when he should be well instructed, in case God granted him health. The Savages who were there were surprised that there should be any discussion about a child who was in the throes of death. “There he lies dying, and you are debating as to who shall have him.” “In fact,” said his father, “he is dead if baptism does not restore him.” They were again assured that, if they believed that God was powerful enough and good enough to restore life to their child, he would do it. At last the mother herself presents him for baptism, as an evidence of [56] her faith and of her hope. The child is baptized on the instant, without ceremony and without giving him a