

since the vow we had made to God in honor of the Conception of the holy Virgin, for the conversion of these Peoples,—a Savage came and brought me of his own accord, or rather through the unseen guidance of the holy Spirit, a little girl, to make me a present of her. That greatly rejoiced us, for heretofore there has been great difficulty in obtaining girls. Now to free myself from the importunity of these Barbarians, I advised them to present her to some French Captain; it is thus they call all those who have any authority. I hinted at Monsieur Gand, whom I begged to accept this child, and to make some present to this Savage, assuring him that we would be responsible for everything. He did not fail us, but appeared to be very well pleased,—evincing an interest in this Barbarian, and making him a present of a blanket and a keg of sea biscuit, which were placed upon our accounts. He had her lodged at sieur Hebout's, and we immediately had her dressed like a French child, paying her board besides. It is true Monsieur Gand wished to give her a dress at his own expense, so glad was [196] he to see this poor girl in the way of obtaining her own salvation, and that of many others also. We have observed and will observe the same plan in regard to those who have been given to us since, and who will be given to us hereafter; for, as these Barbarians are disposed to retract their promises, I send them to the French Captain, and tell them that he will be offended if they act like children, who change their minds every moment; this holds them to their duty.

On the eighteenth of the same month, Monsieur de Champlain being very sick, Monsieur Gand went to the Cabins of the Savages to give orders about the