

that they could not easily mislead him. Therefore let attention be paid to the meaning of the word flag, standard, symbol. Everbody knows the Savages well enough to be aware that they are fond of expressing themselves in figurative language and that they perfectly understand all the meanings of the words which convey some image to their minds. The Abenakis have received the Calumet Dance from the Renards; this Calumet Dance brings about union and peace between nations; the Abenakis wish to retain this flag of the Renards; therefore they wish to live on good terms with the Renards. If that inference be correct, will this one be less so? The Calumet Dance is a Religious Ceremony amongst the Renards; the Abenakis wish to retain this Dance as a flag, a standard, a symbol. The Abenakis therefore desire to appear, at least outwardly, to have the God of the Renards' Religion. Consequently the Missionary was not surprised when—on the Return of the Abenakis from Montreal and on his declaring to the Leader of the present Conspiracy that the Christian Religion and this idolatrous Dance could not exist together and that a choice must be made between them—he heard the savage reply coldly and firmly: "Since these two things are incompatible, the Calumet Dance must therefore be retained in preference."

* * * * *

3d. The levity and inconstancy of the Savages, their training which makes them averse to labor, to control, and to restraint; the love of independence and freedom; dissoluteness in the young men; unfaithfulness in marriages; their intemperance and excesses while intoxicated; all these defects are but so many vices of mankind. The Gospel has infallible remedies for repressing them as it effectively represses them in all the other nations of the world. But here is a sin of a special nature and which is peculiar to all the Savages; it consists in sifting this same Gospel through the Sieve of the Councils. Accustomed as they are to hold Councils to deliberate on matters of the slightest importance, they do the same with respect to the word of God that is announced to them. If they hear the