

not listen to him. The poor Catechumen, seeing [128] that, took his drum, broke it into pieces, and threw it to his dogs. "I wished," said he, "to entertain the Father, and make him an eyewitness of the value that I set upon my drum, by giving it to the dogs in his presence; but, although he would not enter, it shall nevertheless be cast into eternal oblivion." When the Father heard this story, he was really pleased at having been piously deceived by this good Neophyte, who was named Paul at his baptism.

As soon as he became a Christian, he invited the chief Savages to a feast, in order to give them an account of the motives that had induced him to seek baptism so earnestly: "The life that we lead here below is short; we are taught that there is another, filled with eternal blessings, which cannot be obtained unless we be washed in the water of baptism; this water then must be of great importance,—we are told that those who despise it must expect only an eternal fire. If this be true, as I believe it to be,—for our souls, being immortal, ought to be rewarded according to their works,—it seems to me that I have been right to search out the [129] way of entering into these blessings, and of avoiding those great evils. Do not think that temporal interest moves me, or that I value highly the connection and the alliance with the French, my thought goes much farther than that.

"Besides, I have resolved to abandon forever our old customs; I no longer have any voice for the superstitious chants, my drum no longer has any sound, and my mouth no longer has any breath to deceive the sick; for all these follies cannot restore