

1639. the other hand, Father de Brebeuf was no sooner informed of what was passing than he hastened to the prisoner, determined not to leave his side till he had opened to him the way of salvation. He first perceived him amid a band of warriors, clothed in a new beaver robe, with a wampum belt around his neck, and another around his head, like a diadem. He was made to sing without giving him a moment's relaxation, but he was not ill-treated. What most astonished the missionary was that he was as tranquil, and had a countenance as serene, as if he had suffered nothing or was sure of his life ; yet he had endured much in the first days of his captivity, and had more to fear than to hope from the future.

Father de Brebeuf was invited to make him sing, according to custom : but he excused himself, and approaching him a little nearer, he remarked that one of his hands had been crushed between stones, and one of his fingers torn off ; that two fingers of the other hand were gone, cut off with an axe ; and that the only dressing applied to these wounds was a few leaves, bound with strips of bark. In addition to this, the joints of his arms were burnt, and on one he had a deep gash. He had been reduced to this state on his march ; for, from the moment he had entered the first Huron town, he had received only good treatment. Every cabin had feasted him, and a young woman had been assigned him to act as a wife. In a word, to see him among these Indians, no one would have supposed that people who showed him so much friendship would be so many demons furiously tormenting him.

Father de Brebeuf, who had every liberty to converse with him, began by telling him that although he could do nothing to mitigate his pains, he wished, at least, to teach him to suffer them—not precisely as a brave, to acquire a glory that would be useless to him after death, but from a more solid and elevated motive ; that this motive was the well-grounded hope that his pains would be followed by a perfect and endless happiness. He then briefly explained