

1639. at first imagined that he whom I had lost had risen again, and I resolved to put you in his place. I had already prepared a mat for you in my cabin, and it gave me great pleasure to think that I was to spend the rest of my days peacefully with you ; but the condition in which I see you forces me to change my resolution. It is evident that with the pain and trouble you endure life can be but a burden, and you will doubtless thank me for shortening it. It is those who mutilated you thus who put you to death.¹ Courage, then, nephew ! Prepare for this evening. Show that you are a man, and be not depressed by fear of torture."

The prisoner heard this as though it did not concern him. He replied, in a firm tone, "This goes well!" Then the sister of the one whom he was to replace came and offered him food, as if he had really been her brother, serving him with every appearance of the most sincere and cordial friendship. The old chief himself caressed him, put his pipe in his mouth ; and seeing him all drenched in sweat, wiped it off, and gave him all possible marks of truly fatherly affection.

Towards noon the prisoner made his farewell feast,² at the expense of his uncle ; and all being assembled, he said : "Brothers, I am going to die ; enjoy yourselves boldly around me ; think that I am a man ; and rest assured that I fear neither death nor any torment you can inflict upon me." He then sang, several warriors joining with him ; after which the food was served up. There is no invitation to these banquets : every one has a right to go ; but most of them bring no platter, and come as mere spectators. The banquet over, the prisoner was taken to the place of torture, a cabin set apart for this use. Each village has one of this class, styled the *cabin of blood* or of

¹ The Tohontaenras, who subsequently surrendered to the Senecas and removed to their country : Relation, 1651, p. 4.

² This farewell feast was called, in Huron, Astataion : Rel. 1637, p. 113 ; Atsataion, 1638, p. 44. Chitsatayon : Sagard, Dict. v. Festin.