

severed heads,¹ and it is always the cabin of a war-chief. As soon as a prisoner sets foot in it, it is no longer in the power of any one to spare his life. It is not, however, always the place of execution, which may be performed anywhere. 1639.

Towards eight o'clock at night eleven fires were lighted, about six feet apart. All ranged themselves in a line on either side, the old men behind, on a sort of platform, and the young men, who were to be actors, in the front rank. As soon as the prisoner entered, an old man advanced, exhorted the youth to do well; adding that this was an important action, and that Areskouy² would look down upon them. This short harangue was received with applause, or rather with yells, wild enough to strike terror into the stoutest. The captive at the same time appeared amid the assembly, between two missionaries, and the cries redoubled as he was seen. He was next seated on a mat and his hands bound.

He then rose and went around the cabin, dancing and singing his death-song. This done, he returned to his place, and sat down on the mat again. Then a war-chief took off his robe; and showing him thus naked to the assembly, said: "Such a one (naming another chief)³ takes this captive's robe; the inhabitants of such a village⁴ will cut off his head and give it, with an arm, to such a one⁵ (whom he named again), who will make a feast of it." Then began a most tragic and horrible scene; and Father de Brebeuf, who was present at the whole, gives a descrip-

¹ Otinontiskiaj ondaon: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1637, p. 114.

² The god of war, the same as Te-haronhiaouagon: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1670, pp. 47, 66; Relation, 1671, p. 17; Lafitau, Mœurs des Sauvages, i., p. 126. The worship of Areskouy has been succeeded by that of Hawennio, really the God of the Christians. The Huron

form is properly Areskoui, the early writers using what they called an iota subscript to designate a kind of pause and peculiar vowel sound. The Iroquois pronounced it less obscurely, and the missionaries among them wrote it "Agreskoué."

³ Oteiondi.

⁴ The Ataronchronons.

⁵ Ondessone.