

1639. tion that makes one shudder. This missionary induced the executioners, from time to time, to give their victim some relaxation. He profited by it to exhort him to offer his sufferings to a God who could reward him for them, and who had himself undergone for us every indignity and torment.

While he spoke all kept silence and listened attentively. Joseph replied to all as though he felt no pain; and during his whole torture nothing escaped him which his charitable instructors could rebuke. He even spoke at times of the affairs of his tribe, as though he were in the midst of his family and friends. His tortures were prolonged, because the old men had declared that it was important that the rising sun should find him still alive. As soon as day broke he was led out of the village and no longer spared. At last, when they saw him about to expire, for fear that he should die otherwise than by steel, as his sentence required, they cut off his foot, hand, and head. The distribution was made as had been directed, and the rest of the body was put into the kettle.<sup>1</sup>

Situation of  
the Huron  
mission.

The Huron mission then had great contradictions to experience, but they were checkered with success that gave the Fathers great hopes. The details which they give in their letters are truly touching; and these letters are written with so much simplicity and candor, that we cannot be surprised that they excited the interest of so many persons of piety in the conversion of the heathen in Canada. On the one hand, we see savages drawn by the secret impression of grace, and, by the charity of their masters in Christ, present themselves in crowds for baptism; numbers of Iroquois prisoners enter, like this one just described, into the way of salvation, and by the same gate as he, and show, till the last sigh, sentiments that touched their very enemies; finally, unhopcd-for conver-

---

<sup>1</sup> Relation, 1637, p. 118; Letter of Documents Inédits, xii., p. 181. See Father Francis du Péron, Carayon, Sagard, Histoire du Canada, p. 453.