

1639. entangled in the collar of the missionary's cassock, so that though he pulled with all his might, he did not do him much harm.

After toiling in vain, he perceived his stupidity, and wished to loosen the collar, but failing to do so, raised the hatchet to tomahawk the missionary, who escaped from his hands. The Hurons stood by, unmoved spectators of this scene, as a thing that did not concern them in the least; but two Frenchmen, attracted by the noise, rushed violently on the Algonquin and were going to kill him, when Father Lallemant interposed, representing the consequences that might ensue from the death of this man. He added that it was better to tell the Hurons plainly that the governor-general would hold them responsible if any thing befell a missionary confided to them; and the Frenchmen followed the advice.

The Hurons then held a council, after which they told the Algonquin that Father Lallemant was under their safeguard. This declaration at first had no great effect; and as those who made it went no further, without sustaining the Frenchmen, and the Algonquin was well attended, the missionary was still for a time in very great danger. At last, seeing the savage a little calmer, either because weariness had moderated his fury or because he had really never intended to go to extremes, the Hurons told him that if he would release the Father, they would cover the dead man—that is to say, would make him some present to console him for the loss of his kinsman. This proposition completely calmed him. The Hurons gave him some furs, calculating shrewdly that they would be no losers, and at once embarked with the missionary.¹

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, des Sauvages, p. 95) gives an incorrect account, assigning it to the year 1638, p. 30; Letter of Father Francis du Péron, April 27, 1639, Carayon, Documents Inédits, xii., p. 168. Perrot (Mœurs, Coustumes, et Relligion the Relation of 1638.