

1640. man. Satisfied with even this trifling success, and fearing to engage a larger party if they advanced, they were about to retreat, when the prisoner told them that the band to which he and his comrades belonged was much weaker than their party. Deceived by his story, they resolved to await the allies at a point where, as their captive assured them, they intended to pass, taking no precaution except to throw up a kind of intrenchment to prevent a surprise.¹

Defeat of
an Iroquois
party.

The Hurons and Algonquins soon appeared; and the Iroquois, desperate at being thus duped, wreaked a fearful but not unexpected vengeance on him who had involved them in such a disaster. The majority then counselled flight; but a brave, raising his voice, said: "Brothers, if we resolve to commit such an act of cowardice, at least wait till the sun sinks in the west, that he may not see us." These few words had their effect. They resolved to fight to their last breath, and did so with all the courage that could be inspired by hate, and the fear of dishonor by fleeing from enemies so often vanquished; but they were opposed to men who were not inferior to them in courage, and were here three to one.

After a very stubborn fight, seventeen or eighteen Iroquois were left on the field, their intrenchment stormed, and all the survivors disarmed and taken. The Hurons took to their village the captives that fell to their lot,² and outdid themselves in cruelty to these wretches; but God seems to have permitted their misfortune only to display his mercy in their regard. The missionaries, who were accorded liberty to converse with them freely, found their docility astonishing. They instructed them sufficiently in our holy mysteries, and baptized them all. These neophytes then sustained the frightful torture to which they were subjected—not with that brutal insensibility and ferocious pride in which these savages glory on

¹ Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 241.

² Relation, 1639, p. 69; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 241.