

such occasions, but with patience, sentiments, and courage worthy of Christianity, and which their executioners could not fail to attribute to the power of baptism.¹

1640.

Several prisoners are baptized at death.

This happy prejudice greatly advanced the cause of religion, and authorized the faithful to profess it more openly than they had yet dared to do; for till then several had not complete liberty in cabins where they did not form a majority. Some even had been ill-treated for their religion; and when a Christian fell sick, nothing was left untried to force him to call in the medicine-men. Many allowed themselves to be seduced, and some missionaries were of opinion that on more than one occasion the prestiges of these charlatans were attended with operations visibly diabolical.

Yet the allies lost all benefit of the advantage which they had gained by their not acting in concert. The cantons, on their side, more aroused than ever by the check which they had received, resolved to take a memorable vengeance; but not to draw too many united forces on them at once, they set every engine at work to prevent the French from assisting their allies, and at the same time to create in the latter a distrust of us. They sent out three hundred warriors, divided into several bands; and all the Indians that fell into their hands were treated with the inhumanity habitual to these barbarians. On the contrary, some Frenchmen, taken prisoners in the vicinity of Three Rivers, received no injury.

Stratagem of the Iroquois to detach the French from the Hurons.

Some time after, several parties appeared in the neighborhood of the same fort, and for several months held in check all the French settlements. Then, when least expected, they offered to make peace, on condition that our allies should not be included. This proposition was made to Mr. de Champflours, who had recently succeeded the Chevalier de Lisle as governor of Three Rivers, and was brought in by a French prisoner named Marguerie. The

¹ Relation, 1639, p. 67; Creuxius, Historia Canadensis, p. 241.