

1642. their departure,¹ at dawn, as they were about to embark, they perceived an Iroquois trail on the bank of the river; but they despised an enemy to whom they deemed themselves far superior in numbers, and whom they consequently deemed not rash enough to begin an attack. They pursued their way without taking any precaution against surprise, and became the dupes of this unpardonable security. The Iroquois braves were seventy in number. One division lay in ambush, behind some bushes that covered a point close at hand, which the party had to pass; the other had crossed the river and concealed themselves in the woods.²

Most are taken.

As soon as the Hurons came within reach of the first party, a well-delivered volley of musketry wounded several and riddled every canoe. This sudden and unforeseen attack threw the Christians into disorder; but some of the most agile promptly sprang ashore, and succeeded in escaping. The bravest, supported by three or four Frenchmen, who accompanied Father Jogues, for some time made a resolute defence in their canoes; but, as the water poured in, and there was no means of flight, they were at last obliged to surrender, except a few who escaped in the confusion caused among the Iroquois by their resistance; the rest were seized and bound.

Father
Jogues
makes him-
self a pris-
oner.

It had depended on Father Jogues himself to follow the first who took flight; they indeed did all they could to induce him; but the servant of God, as calm amid this tumult as if he had been at full liberty, baptized a catechumen, and prepared him for any event. To those who urged him to seek safety he replied that they did right to escape, but that it did not become him to abandon his children when they most needed his assistance. Charity, exacted by duty, does not fully satisfy an apostolic heart. The combat ended, the Hurons all taken or fled, Father

¹ Second day after their departure (MS.) Martin (Bressani, p. 190) and Ferland (i., p. 316) think the place of capture the islands in Lac St. Pierre, forty-five leagues from Quebec.

² They all landed and fought on