

1642. made ten days' journey in canoes, after which they had to march again, and the prisoners, most of whom could scarcely stand, were, moreover, loaded with the baggage of their pitiless masters.

Father Jogues, in his memoirs, states that the first days his captors did not stint them in food, but that this gradually diminished, and that, towards the close of his march, he was no less than three times for twenty-four hours without tasting food, their provisions having almost entirely failed, on account of the circuitous path which they had been obliged to take to avoid encountering hostile war-parties. He adds, that neither he nor Goupil, his companion, were bound like the rest at night, so that they might easily have escaped; but the reasons which had prevented him at first diverted him to the last, and the young surgeon would never consent to abandon him.¹

The prisoners are tortured in three villages successively.

At last the whole troop arrived in a village of the Mohawk canton,² where the captives were again told that they were doomed to the stake. Here they were treated with such inhumanity that not a spot on their bodies was left without a bruise or a wound, not a feature recognizable. After enduring the first fury of the women and children, they had to ascend a kind of scaffold, and at a signal the three Frenchmen received some blows with a scourge on the shoulders; then an old man approached Father Jogues, attended by an Algonquin woman, a slave, to whom he gave a knife, ordering her to cut off the missionary's right thumb.

This woman, who was a Christian, at first stood as if stupefied, then declared that what she was ordered to do was utterly impossible. The old man, however, resorted to such terrible threats that she obeyed. The holy man afterwards declared that his fear of seeing the woman tortured on his account, and the joy which he subsequently felt on seeing her escape the peril by her obedience,

¹ Jogues, Notice sur René Goupil, p. 30.

² August 14. Jogues (Societas Militans, p. 515) calls it Andagoron.