

1642. kindled in their hearts, they expected it to cost them their lives. The friends and kindred of the dead counted upon it, when the Dutch, who were by chance in the village, asked that the three Frenchmen should be given up to them.¹

They are refused.

This request embarrassed the Iroquois, and led to a kind of negotiation, in which the fury enkindled against the prisoners somewhat abated; but this was all the benefit which the French derived. The council at last replied to the Dutch, that the French were no longer at their disposal, it having been decided to restore them to their countrymen. This was a mere pretext, but whether the Dutch understood it or not, they pressed the matter no further, and retired. Some of the more moderate of the Iroquois had, indeed, advised that Father Jogues and his two companions should be sent back to Ononchio, but all the others opposed it strongly. The three Frenchmen were then given to different masters; Couture's was in another village, and was apparently the same chief who had already rescued him from the hands of his torturers.²

Martyrdom of René Goupil.

René Goupil knew his only at the moment when that savage dealt him a blow on the head with his tomahawk, of which he expired a moment after. He was a young man of great innocence of life and of admirable ingenuousness. Although he had commenced his novitiate at Rouen, he was sent to Canada in his secular habit, that he might exercise his profession with more liberty and decorum; but though he did not wear the religious habit, his conduct was not the less strict, and his piety merited the first crown of martyrdom in New France; for his master's motive in thus depriving him of life was, that an old man having seen him make the sign of the cross on a child, had

¹ Father Jogues, in his letter (Tanner, p. 518), says the Dutch official (Van Curler) came "de liberatione nostrâ acturus," not by chance (Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1643, p. 64). For Van Curler's own account, see O'Callaghan, New Netherland, I.,

pp. 335, 463, 464; De Vries, Voyages from Holland to America, translated from the Dutch by Henry C. Murphy, New York, 1853, p. 137. Van Curler was accompanied by Jacob Jansen and John Labadie.

² Tanner, p. 518.