

to hearken to them. Still, their charity to the sick, their mildness and their patience, won the hearts of some, whom they succeeded in making fervent proselytes. This first success would have had consoling results, had it been possible for these missionaries to prolong their stay among this people ; but they were soon recalled to the Hurons, whose misfortunes increased daily.¹

It was not only war that desolated them : famine and disease inflicted no less serious ravages among them. But if all these complicated evils were stumbling-blocks for the hardened, they strengthened the faith and increased the piety of the true faithful. They were even the instruments employed by God to draw many of the heathen to his worship. Clearly defined marks of the vengeance of an offended Deity contributed also. Soon after Father Jogues' capture a whole Huron village was destroyed. The Iroquois entered at daybreak, and the sun rose on every cabin in ashes, every inhabitant, of whatever age or sex, slaughtered by the conquerors. Only some score escaped through the flames. This village had never been willing to receive the gospel, and had carried its impiety so far as to defy the God of the Christians. Its destruction was regarded as a chastisement of heaven, and many profited by so striking a mark of God's wrath.²

A less melancholy event produced no less salutary results for the Huron nation. One of the war-parties was setting out, when the idolaters, forming the majority, wished as usual to consult the god of war ; and the medicine-man, to whom they applied to know his will, promised them victory if they went southward. While they were engaged in their superstitious rites the Christians assembled apart to pray ; and when they learned the demon's answer, or that of his tool, the youngest, armed with a holy

1643.

Judgment
of God on a
Huron vil-
lage.

¹ Relation de la N. F., 1641, p. 75. town of Ehwae. See Relation da la

² This alludes, apparently, to the Nouvelle France, 1641, p. 69.