

and carried a letter from the missionary to the governor of the French. This was the letter already mentioned, and all the circumstances were exactly true.¹ The holy man subsequently avowed that this information at first filled him with alarm, but that, after gathering strength from prayer, he, without a struggle, offered to God the sacrifice of his life. Thus the Almighty permits the greatest souls to feel, from time to time, all their weakness, in order that they may in nowise depend on their own virtues; but when they humble themselves in His presence, by acknowledging their need of His aid, He is never wanting.

The servant of God accordingly prepared to pursue his way, resolved to meet any event, when a Dutch officer, who commanded in that district, arrived at the post. Perceiving a European led by a band of Indians, he asked who he was. He was told that he was Father Jogues, and they added that he was on the point of being burned. He was touched; and as he sought an opportunity to gratify the Chevalier de Montmagny, from whom he had recently received a service, he felt that he could do nothing more agreeable to that governor than to obtain the liberty of the missionary.² He formed a plan; and it is even asserted that orders to that effect had been sent out to all the commandants in New Netherland by the States-General, in consequence of the most urgent request of the Queen-Regent of France.

Be that as it may, the officer, after deliberating for a time on the means of carrying out his project, called Father Jogues and told him that there was a vessel at anchor quite near the post, which was to weigh forthwith for Virginia; that he would be secure there, and once at Jamestown, would find convenient opportunities for going to any point he chose. The holy religious, after

1643.

A Dutch officer offers to deliver him from the hands of the Iroquois.

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1643, p. 75; Memoirs, MS.

² Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1643, p. 76.