1643.

testifying his gratitude, asked a night to deliberate on his offer. This surprised the commandant not a little, for he could not conceive how a man in so critical a position could hesitate for a moment to extricate himself.

He accepts the offer.

The servant of God spent the whole night in prayer: and after considering that his death was certain if he returned to his village; that such a death could be of no benefit, but, on the contrary, only remove still further all hope of peace between the Iroquois and the French; that not having started on his parole, but under an escort assigned by his captors to watch him, he was not bound to refuse the means of escape offered; and that by saving his life he might also be useful to the tribes in Canada, he returned to the commandant early next morning and told him that he put himself at his disposal. This officer, without losing a moment, began by inducing the Indians not to start that day, as they intended. He then went to make sure of the crew of the vessel, and all being well-disposed, he notified Father Jogues to come the next night to the sea-shore, where he would find a boat ready to take him on board.

He escapes.

The difficulty was to baffle the vigilance of his guards, much greater by night than by day, and to avoid meeting other Iroquois, who kept coming and going incessantly in that quarter. He was shut up at night in a barn, and as they did not give him an opportunity to examine whether there was any other outlet than the ordinary door by which he could steal away, as soon as he was shut up with his guardians he made a pretext for going out. He was scarcely however outside, when a dog, set loose on a neighboring farm, ran on him and bit him in the leg. He went in badly wounded, and the barn-door was immediately barricaded, so that he could not open it without great noise. All the Indians then lay down around their prisoner.[1]

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[1] Relation de la Nouvelle France, nadensis, p. 389; Buteux, Narré, 1643, p. 76; Creuxius, Historia Ca- MS.