

The servant of God then deemed flight impossible, and easily persuaded himself that heaven did not approve it. He bowed to its decrees and slept calmly. A little before daybreak a servant of the place entered by a door which the Indians had not noticed. Father Jogues, who awoke or was no longer asleep, motioned to the man to quiet the dogs; he rose softly, went out with him and made his way to the riverside. He found the boat, but without sailors, and so high up on the bank that he could not succeed in getting it afloat. He got as near the vessel as he could, and called to them to send some one to him. No reply came. He went back to the boat, imploring the Almighty to increase his strength if it was His will that he should escape from the hands of the Iroquois. His renewed efforts succeeded; the boat was at last pushed into the water and he reached the vessel.¹

He was well received, put down in the hold, and a case laid on the hatchway, so that if the Indians came on board they might be left to search all over without any fear of their finding him. On two occasions he spent twenty-four hours in this kind of dungeon, shut out from the light of day and almost stifled. At the end of that time they came to tell him that the Iroquois insisted, with violent threats, that he should be given up, and the tone of their remarks induced him to believe that they did not wish to get into trouble with them. Like Jonas, he replied: "If for my sake this great tempest is upon you, cast me into the sea." He was then informed that the commandant wished to see him at his house. He made no reply, and in spite of the sailors, who would have kept him by force, got into the boat and was taken back to the post.²

The commandant assured him that he would be safe in his house; adding, that all in the place agreed that it was best for him to leave the vessel, then on the point of sailing, so that they could assure the Indians that he had not

¹ Rel., 1643, p. 77; Buteux, MS. ² Rel., 1643, p. 78; 1647, p. 33.