

1644. were confronting, with a courage worthy of their vocation, the stake and all the horrors of captivity ; that many had already perished beneath the fire and steel of the Iroquois ; that others were languishing in fetters ; and that the places of those who had fallen victims to their zeal were immediately filled up by their brethren, whom desire of a similar lot had made jealous of their sufferings. Here is the first proof.

For three whole years the Huron missionaries had received no supplies from Quebec, so that their habits were falling to pieces ; and wine having failed for Mass, they were obliged to gather wild grapes in the woods to serve their need, and for want of flour, were on the point of being obliged to forego the celebration of the holy mysteries. Their extremity was not unknown at Quebec, but it was not easy to remedy it. At last some Hurons, who had exposed themselves in winter to the perils of a journey on the ice to Quebec, were loaded, on their return, with all that the missionaries needed.¹ They earnestly desired to have a Jesuit to accompany them—the more especially as, besides the fact that Father Jogues had not yet returned from France, Father Davost² was past all exertion and died soon after ; but the superior-general did not dare to propose to any one a mission of which he saw all the danger.

Father Bressani exposes himself to great danger.

Father Francis Joseph Bressani, a Roman Jesuit, to whom all that befell him in America had been foretold in France, and whose courage had only derived fresh strength from the prediction, no sooner understood the difficulty in which his superior stood than he offered to attend the convoy, and his offer was accepted. He embarked in the latter part of April, 1644,³ with a young

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, to France : Carayon, Documents Inédits, xiv., p. 112 ; Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1643, p. 80.

² Father Ambrose Davost arrived in Canada in May, 1633, and died at sea in 1643, on his passage back

³ April 27, 1644 : Bressani, Breve Relatione, p. 32 (see ante, vol. i.,