

Frenchman and six Hurons, two of whom had recently escaped from the hands of the Iroquois. Their journey, as far as Three Rivers, was successful enough; but an accident, which delayed them a whole day at the entrance of Lake St. Pierre, threw them into the hands of their enemies. The missionary's canoe was wrecked; the next night there was a heavy fall of snow, delaying the party still more; and some of them, firing imprudently at wild-geese,¹ disclosed their presence to an Iroquois party not far off, who at once formed an ambuscade.

The next day² Father Bressani, doubling a point, suddenly found himself in the midst of three hostile canoes. The disadvantage being too great, no combat ensued. The two other Huron canoes, which followed, seeing the missionary taken, plied their paddles to escape, but two Iroquois canoes, still better manned, awaited them behind another point, and stopped them. The Christians, although only two in each canoe, and much encumbered with baggage, resolved to defend themselves; one of the bravest aimed at an Iroquois, but was anticipated by another, who shot him dead in his canoe. No more was needed to make his comrade and those in the other canoe throw down their arms. They were instantly taken and bound.³

The Iroquois then proceeded to divide their booty; for since they had begun to make war on the French, or rather since they had seen how the French acted on such occasions, they were no longer content, as of old, with the glory

1644.

He is taken
by the Iro-
quois.

p. 80); *Relation Abregée de Quelques Missions des Pères de la Compagnie de Jésus dans la Nouvelle France*, by Father Felix Martin, S.J., Montreal, 1852, pp. 13-45; *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1644, p. 39. For a life of Father Bressani, see the French translation of his *Breve Relatione*.

¹ They fired at an eagle, says Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 32.

² Next day but one: Bressani,

Breve Relatione, p. 32. He makes the place of capture twenty-two or twenty-four miles from Three Rivers, and seven or eight from Fort Richelieu.

³ The attacking party numbered twenty-seven: Bressani, p. 32; Martin's edition, p. 117. The account in the *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1644 (p. 41), differs slightly. The Huron killed was Bertrand Sotrioskon.