

1644.

of victory, but the hope of plunder had full as much to do with their war-parties as the desire of injuring their enemies. They began, moreover, to understand their dependence on their Dutch neighbors, and the booty swept from their enemies enabled them to obtain from New Netherland munitions needed to carry on the war.

His suffer-  
ings during  
his captiv-  
ity.

The booty divided, these savages cut up the body of the fallen Huron, cooked and ate it. They then exultingly took up their march homeward, leading off their prisoners, whom they almost allowed to perish on the way, yet forced to paddle without respite. As they approached their journey's end they met a fishing-party, to whom they abandoned the prisoners for a time; these received the captives with a severe bastinado. The Hurons escaped with that; but the missionary had his left hand cloven open between the third and little finger.<sup>1</sup> As soon as he reached the first village of the Mohawk canton<sup>2</sup> he was subjected to horrible treatment, till he finally fell, without consciousness or motion. To restore him, they cut off his left thumb and two fingers of his right hand.<sup>3</sup>

A storm, which came up, dispersed the crowd, and the missionary was left alone, stretched on a kind of scaffold, unable to rise and rapidly losing blood. In the evening he was taken to a cabin, where his nails were burnt and his feet distorted. Here, given up without reserve to the fierce and malignant youth, he was loaded with outrages and treated with the utmost barbarity. He was there left, after dung had been forced into his mouth. The next day they began again, and surpassed even what they had inflicted on him the night before. They carried inhumanity so far as to lay food for their dogs on his naked body, that

<sup>1</sup> This fishing-party of four hundred was on the Upper Hudson. He was tortured here for several days, so that he writes, "I would not have believed that man could have so hard a life." Bressani, *Breve Rela-*

*tion*, p. 37; Martin's edition, pp. 120-3; *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1644, pp. 43, 44.

<sup>2</sup> May 30: Bressani, *Breve Relation*, p. 38.

<sup>3</sup> *Ib.*