

those ever-famishing animals might tear him, as they did in several places.<sup>1</sup> 1644.

At the end of a few days—his body nothing more than one wound, swarming in every part with worms—he became so loathsome that nobody could endure the stench. He suffered excruciating pain, especially in one leg, where an aposthume ulcer had formed, that deprived him of even a moment's sleep. Providence made the cruelty of his torturers remedy this evil; for one of the savages, wishing to inflict a new wound, struck his knife into the tumor and laid it open. The last act of the tragedy was now alone left, and all seemed to prepare for it. This thought alone gave the prisoner a shock which sometimes even made him insensible to his sufferings.<sup>2</sup>

Humiliated to find himself still so weak, he had recourse to prayer, and implored the Almighty to be his strength and support; especially not to permit him to dishonor, by cowardice, his religion and his august ministry, which he had come so far to exercise. At this moment he perceived old men coming from the council held to decide his fate, and soon after word was brought to him that the resolution was taken not to put him to death. This was the last thing that he anticipated, and all shared his astonishment, in view of the fearful state to which he had been reduced. The very men who took part in the council could not explain why they had taken the step.<sup>3</sup>

1645.  
He is delivered and reaches France.

The holy man returned thanks to Him who moulds hearts as pleases him, and humbled himself in His sight, avowing his unworthiness of the grace of martyrdom. He was given to a matron, who treated him very humanely; but the stench exhaled by his body rendered him insup-

<sup>1</sup> Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 39; Martin's edition, p. 127. The decision was made June 19 (says the Martin's edition, p. 124; *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1644, p. 44. *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1644, p. 44), and by an assembly of

<sup>2</sup> Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 39; Martin's edition, p. 125. two thousand: Creuxius, *Historia*

<sup>3</sup> Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 44; Canadensis, p. 402.