

1609. thrown into disorder and thought only of flight. They were hotly pursued, several killed, and some made prisoners. On the side of the allies none were killed, and only fifteen or sixteen wounded, who soon recovered.¹ The enemy, in their flight, abandoned maize flour, which the victors sadly needed, their provisions having entirely failed. They began by appeasing their gnawing hunger; then they spent two hours dancing and singing on the battle-field. At last they took up their homeward march; for among these tribes the victors are on the retreat as soon as the vanquished, and frequently in as great disorder and haste as if pursued by a victorious enemy.²

Cruelty of
the victors.

After eight leagues' march, our braves halted, and taking one of their captives, reproached him with all the cruelties which he had been guilty of to their clansmen who had fallen into his hands, and told him he must expect similar treatment; adding, that if he had courage, he would show it by singing. He at once intoned his death-chant, then his war-song, and all others that he knew, but in a sad tone enough, says Champlain, who had yet to learn that all Indian music has a lugubrious strain. His execution, attended with all those horrors of which we shall speak hereafter, amazed the French, who in vain used every effort to arrest it. Nevertheless, after some time, seeing that the French commander was displeased at their want of courtesy, they told him that if he wished to finish the wretch and shorten his sufferings, it was his to say so. One shot from his arquebuse required no second to close the scene.

As soon as the man was dead, the Indians opened him, threw his entrails into the lake, cut off his head,

¹ Champlain, Voyages (ed. 1613), p. 231. The third, wounded by Champlain, was apparently not a chief; and he does not say that his companions shot any, though one fired: ed. 1632, p. 152.

² Champlain, Voyages (ed. 1613), p. 232. After giving the latitude of the place, he adds, "and it was named Lake Champlain" (p. 232). The Mohawk name is Caniatagaronte.