

1645. he hung the belt on the cord, took another, and binding it on Couture's arm, he again turned to the governor and said :

"Father, this belt brings back your subject : but I was far from saying, 'Nephew, take a canoe, and return to your country.' I should never have been tranquil till I had sure tidings of his arrival. My brother, whom you sent back, has suffered much, and run great risk : he had to carry his pack alone, row all day, drag his canoe over the rapids, be always on the watch against surprise." The orator accompanied his words with very expressive gestures. The spectators sometimes seemed to see a man urging on his canoe with a pole,¹ sometimes turn off a wave with a paddle ; sometimes he seemed out of breath, then took heart again, and for some time remained calm enough.

He then pretended to strike his foot against a stone, while carrying his baggage ; then he limped, as if lamed ; "Even," he cried, after all this pantomime, "if he had been aided to pass the most difficult spots ! Indeed, Father, I do not know where your mind was, to send back one of your children alone and unaided. I did not do the same with regard to Couture. I said to him, 'Let us go, nephew ; follow me, I will restore you to your family at the risk of my life.'"

The other belts referred to the peace, the conclusion of which was the subject of this embassy. Each had its special signification, and the orator explained them in as graphic a manner as he had done the two former.

One smoothed the roads, the other calmed the rivers, another buried the hatchet ; there were presents, to show that henceforward they might visit them without fear or distrust ; the feasts that they would give each other ; the alliance between all these nations ; their intention, always entertained, of restoring Father Jogues and Father Bres-

¹ Called, in French, *picquer de fond*.