

1646. several previous occasions. They were not ashamed to meet him as a friend, and, while he mistrusted nothing, stab him from behind.¹ Others learning where several Christian Indians were gathered to hunt, fell suddenly on them, killed some, carried off others as prisoners—wreaking the most unheard-of cruelties on them.

Hatred of Christianity thenceforward redoubled the rage of these savages, and made the faithful who fell into their hands genuine martyrs.² Neither age nor sex any longer preserved them from the stroke, as before; and we are assured that on the occasion of which I am speaking they crucified a child three years old, and let it expire in torments—a torture hitherto unheard of among these nations, and to be ascribed only to the rage which filled their hearts against the religion proclaimed to them of a God who died on the cross.³ The French received the first tidings of these hostilities from some Algonquin women, who had escaped from the hands of their torturers by resolution and courage that would have elicited admiration in the bravest of men.⁴ The history of one of these deserves to be known.

Singular
escape of an
Algonquin
woman
from the
Iroquois.

She had been for ten days a prisoner in a Mohawk village, and was as yet in ignorance of her final doom. She had, however, more ground for fear than for hope; because she had been stripped totally naked on entering the village, and had been unable to obtain the least thing to cover herself. One night, while lying as usual in a cabin, bound hand and foot with cords which were made fast to as many stakes, and surrounded by Indians who lay on the cords, she perceived that they were all sound asleep.

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1647, p. 47; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 465; De la Potherie, *Histoire de l'Amérique Meridionale*, i., p. 304; Colden, *History of the Five Nations* (N. Y., 1727), p. 18; Lalemant, *Journal*, March 22, 1647.

² See Benedict XIV., *De Canoniza-*

tione; Allocution of Pope Pius VI. on the death of Louis XVI., as to what constitutes martyrdom.

³ Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 468; Relation, 1647, p. 16.

⁴ Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 470; Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1647, p. 8.