

The women and children immediately fled to the woods,¹ 1648. and only eighty men remained, resolved to defend themselves to the last, and who would have done better to reserve themselves for a better opportunity. The town was, indeed, pretty well intrenched, and the first approaches of the enemy, who came close on the three fugitives, cost him dear. He was even twice repulsed; but under cover of a heavy fire of musketry, which brought down the bravest of the besieged, a division of the Iroquois attacked a point in the palisade, and effecting a breach, entered the intrenchment, leading on the whole force. Then it became a massacre, and all the Hurons were soon *hors de combat*.²

They had with them Fathers John de Brebeuf and Gabriel Lallemant, a nephew of Father Charles and Jerome Lallemant, of whom we have spoken; and they had been unable to induce either of them to seek a place of safety. Yet it would have been better had they separated, and Father de Brebeuf used his authority to oblige his companions to follow those who fled; but the recent example of Father Daniel, and the danger in which a number of catechumens were of dying unbaptized, made both believe that they should not leave them. They accordingly took post, one at each extremity of the line of attack, always in the most exposed spots, engaged solely in baptizing the dying and encouraging the combatants to have God only in view.

At last all the Hurons were killed or taken, and the two missionaries were in the number of the latter. The victors then set fire to the cabins, and returned, with their prisoners and all the booty, to St. Ignatius, where they

Fathers de
Brebeuf
and Lalle-
mant taken.

¹ To the number of over five hundred: Relation de la Nouv. France, 1649, p. 11.

² St. Louis was but one league distant: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1649, p. 10. In the assault,

thirty Iroquois were killed and many wounded: Ib., p. 11. The flames of St. Louis were distinctly seen by the missionaries at St. Mary's, which was only a league distant: Ib.; Creuxius, Hist. Canadensis, p. 538.