

1649.

Death of
Father
Chabanel.

Father Garnier was a native of Paris, and to enter the apostolic career had sacrificed a brilliant fortune, resisting the tears of his family, who loved him tenderly. He made this sacrifice too generously not to merit from God the grace of consummating it in the most heroic manner.¹

Father Chabanel had been, as we have seen, recalled from St. John's two days before the desolation of that town, the motive of his recall being that the Superior did not wish to have two missionaries at the same time in a place so exposed as that to the inroads of the Iroquois. But they were both equally ripe for heaven; and if one, by obedience, escaped the steel of the Iroquois, this very obedience obtained for him death in another form, which, while it possessed less lustre in the eyes of men, was perhaps none the less precious before Him who judges according to the dispositions of our heart, and who accounts no less what we have desired to do for his sake than what we really accomplish and suffer.

Father Chabanel left St. John's on the 5th or 6th of December, accompanied by some Christians. The night that followed Father Garnier's death surprised them in a wood; and all his fellow-travellers having fallen asleep, he heard the yells of Iroquois and the death-song of Huron prisoners. He awakened his party, who needed no second counsel to escape. He attempted to follow them, but not being as fleet of foot, soon lost sight of them; and from that time it was never known absolutely what became of him. Some time after, a Huron apostate said that he had met him on the bank of a river, which he helped him to cross, and that they then parted; but there were subsequently many grounds for suspecting the wretch

1650, p. 9; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 565; Carayon, *Doc. Inéd.*, xii., p. 248; *Memoires*, etc., p. 247.

¹ Father Charles Garnier was born at Paris, in 1605, of a distinguished and eminently pious family, several

of the members having entered religious orders. After a holy youth, he entered the Society of Jesus, Sept. 5, 1624, and throughout his life seems to have impressed alike the cultivated white man and the