

1650. calumniators before crediting their words? And have the most polished nations a right to reproach savages on this point? There is, then, no very great reason to wonder that these words made an impression on people who no longer knew to what to ascribe the misfortunes that overwhelmed them. Moreover, those who circulated the reports took care to cloak their design with a coloring of zeal for the public good; and in fact, they asked of those whom they seduced only not to oppose them.

The firmness of two of the Fathers disconcerts their measures.

A few days after, two missionaries¹ arrived at St. Matthew, and on entering the village were much surprised to hear the cries usually made when prisoners were brought in. They kept, however, an unmoved countenance, and none durst lay hands on them. The conspirators contented themselves with hooting, which the missionaries despised. They visited all the cabins, and heard all that had been said about them. They saw the greatness of the peril in which they were, but betrayed no alarm. This assurance, and the conviction felt by many that the God of the Christians had bound the hands of their enemies, opened the eyes of the most prejudiced, and before the close of the day no less than seventeen sought baptism.²

Singular interpositions of Providence in behalf of Christians.

From time to time, Heaven gave striking manifestations of visible protection over the pastors and their flocks. A Huron, taken in battle, was on the point of being bound to the stake, to be burned. He fervently asked God to be delivered from that terrible form of death, and his prayer was instantly heard. He was unbound, and his life spared, to the great astonishment of all. Even those who spared him could not explain why they had done so.³

A good old woman of St. Joseph's Island—who, of all the prayers that they had endeavored to teach her, had

¹ Father Leonard Garreau and Father Adrian Grelon. The latter subsequently, in China, met one of his old Huron flock; Journal, p. 30.

² Relation, 1650, p. 20. The seventeen were not baptized the first day. The missionaries were not so rapid.

³ Peter Outouré; Rel., 1650, p. 21.