

having wintered at Quebec, was returning, pretty well attended, to his old mission, utterly unconscious of its fate.¹

1650.

Death of
Atironta.

He had been escorted for some distance by forty Frenchmen, but a few days after the departure of the escort, had been surprised at night by ten Iroquois. Atironta, a famous Huron chief, a brave man and a good Christian, was killed on the spot, and the missionary received three arrow wounds while he was running around to rouse his party; but the Iroquois having been tardy in effecting their retreat, were at once surrounded, six of them killed, two taken, and two escaped. The Hurons, who lost seven of their party, continued their march, mortified to have been thus surprised by a handful of adventurers.²

They were still more alarmed when they learned the desolation of the country. They saw that their best course was to retrace their steps with the other party, and so they did. They all arrived together at Montreal, where nothing was forgotten to retain them; but they did not deem themselves secure enough there, and, after two days' rest, re-embarked, and reached Quebec on the 28th of July, 1650. Mr. d'Ailleboût gave them a cordial welcome; but there were so few persons of means in the colony, that after the communities and some of the chief men of the town had undertaken to support a number of families, in proportion to their ability, there remained more than two hundred souls, with no resource but Providence. Nor did Providence fail them. They subsisted, for a long time, without its being possible to conceive what enabled them to subsist.³

How they
were re-
ceived.

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1650, p. 27; Creuxius, Hist. Canad., p. 587; Ragueneau, Vie de la M. Catherine de St Augustin, p. 54.

² The escort did not leave Bressani: Martin's Bressani, p. 43; Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1650, p.

26; Creuxius, Hist. Canad., p. 588; Belmont, Histoire du Canada, p. 5.

³ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1650, p. 28; Creuxius, Historia Canadensis, p. 589; Juchereau, Histoire de l'Hotel Dieu, p. 79; Les Ursulines de Quebec, i., p. 143.