

all sides, massacred several of the French, and made some prisoners, among whom was Father Poncet.¹ This missionary was greatly beloved in the colony ; and it was no sooner known in the capital that he was in the hands of the Iroquois, than forty French and many Indians took up the pursuit of the Mohawks, determined not to come back without rescuing him. They were, however, retained at Three Rivers, to re-enforce the garrison of that post, which the enemy held blockaded on all sides.²

Before reaching that town they perceived two heads drawn on the trunk of a tree, with Father Poncet's name below, and that of a Frenchman who had been taken with that religious. They also found on the ground a little book, in which the missionary had written these words : "Six Hurons, naturalized as Iroquois, and four Mohawks, are carrying us off, and have not yet done us any harm." He could not say as much a few days after ; for he was not spared, any more than Father Jogues and Father Bressani had been, in similar circumstances, either during the march or on his arrival in the Mohawk canton.³

1653.
Capture of
Father
Poncet.

¹ Father [Joseph Anthony] Poncet [de la Rivière] was uncle of the late bishop of Usez.—*Charlevoix*. He was a native of Paris, and studied at Rome : *Chaumonot, Autobiographie*, p. 39. He was instrumental in inducing Mother Mary of the Incarnation to come to Canada, in which he arrived, August 1, 1639. He labored in the Huron country at Montreal, and especially at Quebec : *Relations* ; *Charlevoix, Vie de la M. Marie de l'Incarnation*, p. 193. He was taken, Aug. 20, 1653, above Sillery, while endeavoring to get a poor widow's field reaped for her : *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1653, p. 9 ; *Creuxius, Historia Canadensis*, p. 672 ; *Le Mercier, Journal*, Aug. 21, 1653 ; *Belmont, Histoire du Canada*, p. 7. After his captivity, he was again

pastor at Quebec till 1657, when the Abbé de Quéylus, assuming jurisdiction, deprived him. He was then sent to Onondaga, but recalled, and returned to France, Sept. 18, 1657 : *Dequen, Journal* (MS.) He then labored in Brittany, and was French penitentiary at Loretto, and after several years' mission life in the West Indies, died in Martinique, June 18, 1675, aged sixty-five : *Champion, Vie du P. Rigoleu*, p. 78 ; *Amerikanisches Martyrologium in Die Katholischs Kirche in den V. S.*, Regensburg, 1864, p. 332.

² Father le Mercier, *Journal*, Aug. 21, 1653 (MS.) ; *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1653, p. 10.

³ *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1653, p. 10 ; *Le Mercier, Journal* (MS.) ; *Marie de l'Incarnation, Let-*