

on the missionary's, and that he had come in all haste to 1653.
give information.¹

This intelligence in a moment changed the prisoner's He is deliv-
position. They first took him to Orange,² to have clothes
made for him—for his own had been, according to custom,
torn to pieces. On returning to the Mohawks, he was led,
in a kind of triumph, through several towns, and every-
where greeted with marks of the sincerest friendship. At
last, on the 15th of October,³ he set out for Quebec, with
a deputy from the canton, who bore presents for the
governor-general and the superior of the missions. They
had been two days on the march, when they were over-
taken by an express, sent to tell the deputy that the hos-
tages who had been placed in the hands of the French
were in irons, that some had even been tomahawked, and
that he should come to a decision on the matter before
going any further.

This information embarrassed the deputy; but as he Danger that
esteemed Father Poncet, he contented himself with the
missionary's assurance that no harm should befall him,
and continued his route. This first alarm was followed by
some others, which would have put the missionary in
great danger, if he had not had to deal with a man pre-
possessed in his favor. Those familiar with the Indians
are not surprised at these incidents, for nothing is more
ordinary among these savages than to spread such base-
less rumors. They sometimes spring from the mere itching
to announce something new and unexpected, or from
the mere love of talk and of mischief-making.⁴

he runs on
his way
back to
Quebec.

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1653, pp. 9, 14.

² He was there Sept. 20, and com-
plains of the cold reception given
him by the governor of Fort Orange,
although a letter from Governor de
Lauson was handed to that officer
by an Iroquois.

³ He left the last Iroquois town,

Oct. 3: Relation de la Nouvelle
France, 1653, p. 16; Creuxius, His-
toria Canadensis, p. 681.

⁴ Relation de la Nouvelle France,
1653, pp. 16, 17. An event belong-
ing to the year 1653 may be inserted
here from the Jesuit Journal. Fa-
ther Ragueneau says, under the
month of May: "The 26th, a coun-