

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

This intelligence in a moment changed the prisoner's 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 everywhere 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 overtaken by an express, sent to tell the deputy that the hostages 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. He is delivered.

This information embarrassed the deputy; but as he 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 prepossessed 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 baseless 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 Danger that 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 complains 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, Historia Canadensis, p. 681.

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