

canoes, passed haughtily before Quebec, making their prisoners sing in front of the fort,¹ as if to defy the governor-general to come and rescue them from their hands, carried them off to their village unpursued,² burned the chief among them, distributed the rest among the cantons, and retained them in a harsh captivity.³

1656.

Mr. de Lauson has been severely censured for having put up with such insolence: and his inaction, it must be confessed, while they were carrying off, so to say, from between his arms, allies whose preservation equally concerned the honor of the French name and that of religion, casts a stain on his memory which all his virtue cannot efface; but it is because there are misfortunes which men do not forgive, and which, to their way of thinking, dishonor a man as much as the greatest cowardice. The Hurons, in consequence of a presumptuous confidence, had allowed themselves to be surprised. To rescue them from the Mohawks would have required the calling out of five or six hundred men; and even if the governor-general had had them ready, the time necessary to arm and embark them would have given the savages a greater start than was needed to baffle any efforts of a pursuing party.

A young Huron⁴ of this ill-starred band, who escaped from the village where he was a captive, subsequently gave most edifying details of the piety and constancy of these fervent neophytes, many of whom were treated with unparalleled inhumanity, especially one of their chiefs, whose tortures lasted three days, during which he never

¹ Perrot, *Mémoire, etc.*, p. 106. "great battel, in which the Quatoghes (i.e., Hurons) were entirely destroyed."

De la Potherie devotes only one page (*Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale*, pp. 125, 126) to the history of the Hurons.

² *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1657, p. 6; Perrot, *Mœurs, etc., des Sauvages*, p. 84. Colden (in his *History of the Five Nations*, N. Y., 1727, p. 17) alludes to this surprise as a

³ M. Marie de l'Incarnation, *Lettres Historiques*, pp. 532, 533. The details of this surprise were ascertained from Joachim Ondakout, who was relieved by the colony going to Onondaga: *Relation*, 1657, p. 11.

⁴ Joachim Ondakout.