

1670. dering them, had the effrontery to go and sell their booty, passing it off as the fruit of their own hunting; they did not even take pains to make away with the bodies of their victims, which were recognized by some of their own tribe.¹

The result.

These at first suspected the Iroquois, with whom they had just concluded a treaty of peace, and they were preparing to make reprisals, when a rumor arose that Frenchmen had committed the deed. One of the three murderers, falling out with his accomplices, revealed it to a friend, who did not keep his secret; it soon spread from mouth to mouth, till it reached the Indians, and the two tribes which were on the point of engaging in a bloody war, joined against us. The Mohegans were the first in the field, and four of their braves were so hardy as to besiege a French house in open day. The master was absent, but his servants made a vigorous defence; two Indians were killed, but the other two having set fire to the house, it was impossible to extinguish the flames or rescue the mistress, who was burnt to death.²

The Iroquois, on their side, were not slow in learning the particulars of the murder committed on the person of their chief, and they were even assured that two of the murderers had been accused by the third of a plot to poison all Indians of their nation whom they could find. It did not require all this to rouse them to fury, and they resolved to carry their resentment to the last extremity. The French had not a moment to lose, to escape being plunged once more in a war which could not but be disastrous in its consequences; and Mr. de Courcelles, who con-

¹ Charlevoix here follows Mother Mary of the Incarnation (p. 645), but this murder really preceded the other. It was committed during the winter of 1668-9, by three Frenchmen. The victims were Oneidas: *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1670, pp. 2, 45, 76. Three men, a woman, and two children, who were killed on the River Mascouche: Faillon,

Histoire de la Colonie, iii., p. 321, citing Declaration of La Salle, July 5, 1669, and sentence by d'Ailleboust, Sept. 14, 1669, in the Prothonotary's office, Montreal. The murderers of this party escaped, but were tried and condemned: Faillon, pp. 326, 327.

² Mother Mary of the Incarnation: *Ib.* The fact is not stated elsewhere.