

The first is Stephen Tegananokca. He came to Sault St. Louis with his wife, sister-in-law and six children, being at the time thirty-five years of age. He had nothing savage in his disposition, and his sincere and tender attachment to his wife, in a country where license reigns, and men so commonly change wives, would alone stand as a proof of the innocence of his previous life. As soon as he arrived in the new town, he earnestly solicited baptism, with all his family, and they obtained it after the ordinary trials. They were soon the edification of that rising church. Stephen watched over the education of his children with the zeal of a missionary. He sent them every day to morning and evening prayers, and to the instruction given to the young, himself setting them an excellent example by his regular attendance on all the exercises of religion, and his exactness in receiving the Holy Eucharist frequently.

By this pious life he seemed to be preparing to triumph over the enemy of Jesus Christ and to defend his faith amid the most cruel torments. In the month of August, 1690, he set out for the fall hunt, accompanied by his wife and one other Indian. In the month of September they were surprised by a band of fourteen Cayugas, who bound them and took them to their canton. As soon as Stephen beheld himself in the hands of these savage men, he had no doubt but that he would be condemned to the stake. He warned his wife of this, exhorted her to persevere in the faith, and in case she returned to Sault St. Louis, to bring up their children in the fear of God.

The three prisoners were taken to Onondaga ; God wishing apparently that Stephen's constancy and fortitude should shine forth in a place then famous for the assemblage of a host of Indians from all the Iroquois cantons and for the fearful licentiousness prevalent there. Although it is the custom to await prisoners at the entrance of the village, the joy felt at Onondaga on their having in their hands some of the settlers at Sault St. Louis, made all stream out far in advance to meet them. Each had decked himself in his finest attire, as for a day of triumph ; all were armed with hatchets, knives, clubs, or whatever they laid hands on, and fury was depicted on every countenance.

When they reached the prisoners, one of these Indians approaching Stephen, said : " Brother, thou art dead : impute thy misfortune to thyself alone, for thou left us to go and live among those dogs of Christians at the Sault." " I am a Christian," replied Stephen, " and I glory in being one. Do with me what you will : I fear neither your outrages nor fires. I willingly give my life for a God who shed all his blood for me." Scarcely had he ended these words when the furious savages sprang on,