

and gashed him deep on the arms, legs and whole body ; they then cut off several of his fingers and tore out all his nails. One of the band then cried to him : "Pray to God." "Yes," replied Stephen, "I will pray," and raising his fettered hands, he made, as well as he could, the sign of the cross, pronouncing aloud in his own language, these words : "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Half his remaining fingers were immediately hacked off, and again they cried : "Now pray to your God." Again he made the sign of the cross and they instantly cut off all the rest of his fingers, then for the third time called on him to pray, loading him with insults. As he endeavored to make the sign of the cross again with the palm of his hand, it was cut off entirely, and he was slashed wherever he had made the sign of the cross.

After this bloody prelude, the prisoners were led to the village, and near a great fire in which stones had been heated red hot. Several were placed between Stephen's thighs, which were then violently pressed together. He was next ordered to sing in the manner of the country ; as he refused to do so, but began to repeat aloud the prayers which he was daily accustomed to recite, one of the savages took a burning brand and drove it far into his mouth ; then, before he had time to breathe, he was tied to the stake. When the courageous neophyte beheld himself amid the instruments of his torture and a crowd of executioners, he looked calmly upon them and said : "Satisfy yourselves with the pleasure of burning me, spare me not, my sins deserve even greater sufferings than you can inflict ; the more you torture me, the more you increase the reward prepared for me in heaven."

These words rendered them still more furious ; each seized a brand or red hot iron, with which they slowly burned all the body of this holy man, who endured the cruel martyrdom without breathing a sigh ; he even seemed as calm as though he suffered nothing, his eyes raised to heaven, and buried as it were in profound contemplation. At last his strength beginning to fail, he asked a few moments' truce, and then rallying all his fervor, he made his last prayer. He commended his soul to Christ and implored him to pardon his executioners. They at once resumed his torture ; his constancy did not flag and he gave up his soul to his Creator triumphing by his courage over all the Iroquois cruelty.

His wife's life was spared, as he had foretold her ; she remained some time a prisoner in the country, where neither entreaties nor threats could shake her faith. On recovering her liberty, she proceeded to Agnier,<sup>1</sup> which was the place of her birth. There she remained till her

<sup>1</sup> The Mohawk Canton and its chief town are both thus styled in French.