

serving as a saddle; these stirrups are small strips of wood three inches wide, and five long. They are fine horsemen.<sup>1</sup> 1685.

If their prisoners can escape, and enter one of their cabins, they cannot be put to death, and even become free, and members of the nation. Those who are not fortunate enough to escape are put to death in the following manner: They raise a frame similar to that used by the Illinois and other Louisiana tribes described elsewhere, with this difference, that it is about nine feet high, and the prisoner is fastened to the upper cross-piece by the wrists, and to the lower one by the ankles, with well-tightened cords, which thus support him in the air. They remain in this posture half an hour in the morning, turned towards the rising sun, and as long in the evening, turned towards it setting.

The first day they are not subjected to any other torture; but they receive nothing to eat: and all the time that they are unbound, they are forced to dance. The second day they are tied up before sunrise, and immediately the whole village assembles around the frame, men and women. Each family lights its fire, and heats a dish of water. As soon as the sun rises, four old men with knives cut gashes in the arms, legs, and thighs of the sufferer, and catch in dishes the blood that flows from his wounds. They then carry this blood to other old men, who boil it in kettles and give it to the women and children to drink. The author of the manuscript, from which I draw these details, does not say whether these poor creatures are burnt, or allowed to expire in the frame; but he adds that when they are dead, they are stretched on a table, cut in pieces, and these pieces distributed to the whole assembly; that every family cooks its share; that till it is cooked, all dance, after which they eat it.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Penicaut, Relation ou Annale Veritable, ch., xiv. § 5. nicaut, Relation ou Annale Vêritable, ch. xiv, § 5, where he describes his

<sup>2</sup> This matter is taken from Penicaut's own visit to the Genis. It is not in