

ers, a young man, who, though without [28] any obligation to do so, performed the service of interpreter, and repeated to him what the Father Superior had explained. But I ought to have informed your Reverence that this prisoner did not properly belong to the enemy's country, as he was a native of Sonontouan. Yet, inasmuch as a few years before the Sonontouanhrronon had made peace with the Hurons, this man, not having accepted this treaty, had married among the Onontachronon, in order to be always free to carry arms against them.⁴ See how the wise providence of God has led this poor Savage into the ways of Salvation. Perhaps if he had remained at Sonontouan, he might have continued until death in ignorance of his Creator.

But let us return to the feast which was being prepared. As soon as the dog was cooked, they took out a large piece of it, which he was made to eat, for they had to put it even into his mouth, as he was unable to use his hands; he shared it with those who were near him. To see the treatment they accorded him, you might have thought he was the brother and relative of all those who were talking to him. His poor hands caused him great pain, and smarted so severely [29] that he asked to go out of the cabin, to take a little air. His request was immediately granted. His hands were unwrapped, and they brought him some water to refresh them. They were half putrefied, and all swarming with worms, a stench arising from them that was almost insupportable. He begged them to take away these worms, which were gnawing him even to the marrow, and which made him feel (he said) the same pain as if some one had touched him with fire. All was done that could