

their bundles, when they issued from a little thicket, each one felt a hand seize him by the shoulder and a voice cried: "You are dead men!" Immediately they found themselves upon the ground. They [44] expected next nothing less than a blow from a hatchet or a knife; but nothing else followed. Then they arose, and perceived the naked Savages who were fleeing, some to one side, and some to the other, without being able to know or to conjecture what they had intended by this action, or what had arrested their design.

At another time, when they were making a journey, they found themselves in snow above their knees, their feet in water, and the wind so rough, that two Savages, taking on that same day that same path, died therein from cold. A remarkable thing occurred at the death of one of the two. This latter was making the journey with a twin sister; seeing her in as great danger of death as himself, he took the Bear skin with which his sister was covered, and gave her his Beaver skin or robe, as it was warm; and, in fact, the girl escaped, and the young man died.

In connection with this act of piety, I will speak here of another, that occurred in the Neutral Nation while our Fathers were there. [45] A young child went to draw water from a frozen river and fell into the hole; one of his brothers, having been told of it, immediately ran and threw himself in after him; he was so fortunate as to seize his little brother and draw him out of the water by another hole, and also in time enough to save his life.

The consolation that the Fathers had at the end of their stay was,—besides some children baptized