

as the River. They said he had gone to visit them, in order to make them a present of porcelain collars and arrowheads and to instigate their coming to complete the ruin of the country.

Some warned us privately to beware of this undertaking, as there had been no other cause for the murder of one of our Frenchmen, that occurred here some years ago, than just such journeys which made the country uneasy and fearful of a transference of trade.

Others said that when that excellent Christian, Joseph Chiwatenhwa, was buried, Echon, turning in the direction of the country of the Sonontwehronons, who had killed him, said aloud ("Sonontwehronon, it is all over with thee,—thou art dead"); and that, immediately after, the Father had proceeded [66] toward their district, that he might carry the disease to them,—which in truth was raging fiercely among the enemy during the sojourn of the Fathers in the Neutral Nation. Upon this, the Hurons begged us to have good courage and to cause the death of all their enemies.

From the departure of these Fathers until their return, I do not know that a week passed without some one's coming to bring us news that, these having been found in the Neutral Nation by the enemy, they had been slain by their hands. But I cannot doubt that these reports came from the Barbarians of our own region, who for a long time were meditating some evil design that they saw no possibility of ever executing with more impunity than then,—such a murder being likely to be attributed to any one else rather than to them; and, it being com-