

to pray, it was, in their thought, only the performance of sorcerers. It was said that when they went to the brook to wash their [73] dishes, they poisoned the water; that in all the cabins, wherever they went, the children were seized with a cough and a bloody discharge; and that the women became barren. In short, there was no misfortune present or to come, of which they were not considered the source. And many of those persons, in whose cabins the Fathers were lodged, did not sleep either day or night: they dared not touch the food they left, and they brought back their presents, holding everything in suspicion. The poor old women considered themselves as already lost and only regretted their grandchildren, who might have been able to repopulate the land.

The Captains threatened the Fathers with the arrival of the Sonontwehronons, who, they asserted, were not far away. Others did not conceal that as our presents had not been accepted, that meant there was no security for them in the country. Above all the insolence and the tyranny of some of their hosts were insupportable, who commanded them as slaves, and wished to be obeyed in all things. Sometimes they [74] gave them almost nothing for food; and at other times they compelled them to go to the cabins of all their relatives, to eat what was set before them, and then to pay what they should dictate.

In short, they spoke of nothing but of killing and eating these two poor Fathers. In the meantime, the madmen were running through the villages and the cabins. Once, three of them, as bare as one's hand, suddenly entered the cabin in which the Fathers were, and, after having performed several tricks