

in the snow, to which was attached a wretched paper, scribbled upon with a coal; they took it, read it, and found these words written: "The Hiroquois have captured us: go into the woods." They entered the woods, and found a large tree from which the bark had recently been removed, and on which were written these words with charcoal: "The Hiroquois have captured us to-night; they have not yet done us any harm,—they are taking us away to their own country;" there were some other words which could not be read. This [141] happened about the twentieth of February. This blow somewhat bewildered our Frenchmen, who fervently commended to God these two poor captives; all possible ways were sought to deliver them, but none seemed feasible. Our neighboring Savages told us, that it was all over with them, that they had been boiled or roasted, and eaten; but God, who is pleased to grant the prayers of those who have confidence in his goodness, disposed of them otherwise; he restored them to us, and, from their own lips, we learned what follows:

"We arrived at the Village of those who captured us, after a journey of seventeen or eighteen days. At the report of our arrival, every one ran to see us,—not only the neighboring Villages, but also the other Nations wished to have the satisfaction of seeing the captive Frenchmen; they made us stand up at all hours, that they might look us over from head to foot. Some derided us, others threatened to burn us, others had compassion on us; some [142] Hiroquois who had been prisoners at Kebec, and at the Three Rivers, and who had been favorably treated by the French, looked kindly on us, and told us that we should not die. One among them, to whom