

François Marguerie had been very kind, and whom our Fathers had aided in his necessity, said aloud that the Frenchmen were good, and must not be put to death." An act of kindness is never forgotten by God,—he knows how to reward it in his own time; it is well to practice acts of charity and mercy, for the sake of his love.

A young Algonquin prisoner, whose life had been spared by the Hiroquois, recognizing our Frenchmen, said to them: "Take courage, you will not die; inasmuch as you know how to pray to God, he will not fail to succor you." I do not know whether that young man had any confidence in his sovereign Lord; but, at all events, he escaped from the hands of his enemies.

Notwithstanding all these declarations, these young men had every reason for fear, seeing themselves in the midst of barbarism and [143] of cruelty, without help from any creature. The question was of nothing less than fire, and of the fury and teeth of these barbarians, who practice strange tortures on their prisoners.

Some Savages of the upper Nations, not wishing to irritate the French, made presents that these two poor captives might be set free. At length a council was held in the country, and they concluded to negotiate peace with the French; that being done, they promised the prisoners that in the Spring they should be taken back to the Three Rivers. In the meantime, they were given in keeping to two heads of families, who treated them like their own children. One of these, seeing that his prisoner prayed to God night and morning, and that he made the sign of the Cross before each meal, asked him what