

in these regions; if they are defeated, the Unbelievers will become more troublesome than ever, and will accuse us of having forced to their death those who have received our belief." On account of these objections, the poor [178] Hurons, seeing themselves abandoned by all aid, were much distressed, and we as well as they; for Father Paul Ragueneau and Father René Menart were to accompany them.

At length, our Lord consoled us; for, at the very time they had resolved to set out, a Huron canoe arrived, and we learned that the enemy had retired; so that the Fathers went on with the good Charles Sondatsaa and the other Hurons without any other discomfort than the great fatigues of a most frightful road.

A short time after their departure, some other canoes arrived, bearing Hurons, who greatly slandered poor Father de Brebeuf; they said that, having met a Huron who had escaped from the hands of the enemy, they had learned from him what I am going to relate. "Being in the hands of the Hiroquois," said this escaped prisoner, "one of them spoke to me in this wise: 'We have an acquaintance and a good understanding with the black-robed Frenchmen who are in your country, and especially with a certain man whom you call Echon,'"—it is thus they name Father Jean de Brebeuf; [179] "'this man spent the winter among the neutral Nation, where he had communication with the Hiroquois, our confederates; he combined with them and with us that he might ruin you. 'Take courage,' said he to them; 'we entered into the country of the Hurons in order to exterminate them; we have already caused a great number of them to die by our