

prayers, as by powerful charms; but we have not been able to destroy them entirely. You must give the finishing stroke to them, by your wars and by your sudden attacks; when they shall be wholly destroyed, we will dwell with you in your country." When our confederates had informed us of all this, we came to lie in ambush for you. We recognized Echon, and visited him at night; he made us presents, and we let him go away. He apprised us of the canoes which were following him, and thus you have fallen into our hands," said the Hiroquois to this prisoner, according to the report of the calumniators who contrived these impostures in order to ruin us. Saint Paul was quite right in saying that, *Si in hac vita tantum in Christo sperantes* [180] *sumus, miserabiliores sumus omnibus hominibus*. If we expect nothing in the other life, we are more miserable than the rest of men; for those to whom we give our lives in these immense labors, procure our death by the most iniquitous means in the world.

Before concluding this chapter, I must notice an act of magnanimity in our Christians of Saint Joseph, during the sojourn they made at the Three Rivers; their Captain having said in open assembly that he was a Frenchman, since he had embraced their belief, a certain Unbeliever — an impudent man, wishing to affront him and all his people — walked around his cabin, and cried aloud to him: "Go then, thou Frenchman, that is right, go away into thine own country. Embark in the Ships, since thou art a Frenchman; cross the sea, and go to thine own land; thou hast for too long a time caused us to die here." This Captain came to me immediately, without replying a word. "My heart wishes to be wicked," said