

always in danger of being taken unexpectedly by these robbers, who carry on war only like footpads who besiege highways, never showing themselves except when they find their advantage. Let us, therefore, follow them in their incursions.

About the end of Autumn of last year, the Savages who were at the three Rivers, fearing the baying of dogs, threw themselves into the jaws of wolves. Not considering themselves sufficiently secure in the vicinity of the French, they divided into two bands. One of these went down to Saint Joseph, near Kebec, where Our Lord preserved, for them all, the life of the body, and gave to some life for their souls. The other band ascended [157] far into the country of the Algonquins, whither the Hiroquois followed and massacred them. Two prisoners, who escaped from the clutches of those Barbarians, related the following: "Our enemies," they said, "have told us that they came forth from their country to the number of two hundred men, well armed, and divided into two parties. One was to lie in wait, and surprise some Frenchmen near the settlement of the three Rivers; but the death of two of the bravest of their Captains, which happened on the way, was considered a bad omen, and led them to believe that the evil presage would be fulfilled if they went any further. They therefore returned to their own country, without doing anything. The other party marched on the ice and snow as far as the Island, where they surprised some cabins of Savages, killed those whom they first met and took away alive as many as they could to their own country, to become the objects of their sport, and food for the flames and for their stomachs. We were of this