

Three days afterward, they reached the enemies' villages, where such was the fury vented on them that there was hardly a portion of their bodies that [18] was not injured. The barbarians made the French walk in front, in order that they might receive the first blows. Afterward they were made to ascend, quite naked, a scaffold erected at the entrance of the Village. There they remained from morning until night, and, in order to commence this cruel game, an old man—a famous magician among the Iroquois tribes, who had for many years promised them that they would be victorious over all their foes—was the first to mount upon the stage. "It is the French," he said, "whom I consider my enemies. The Hurons do not deserve my anger. I have compassion on them;" and, as he said this, he severely beat our French, one after the other, with a cudgel. Then he ordered a woman to come up and cut off the Father's thumb. "For," added he, "I hate him the most." After that, one torture succeeded another, and the entire day was but a scene of cruelty. On the following day, the whole had to be commenced anew. But I have a horror of repeating all these tortures, although they are more horrible to suffer than to write of. It [19] is sufficient for our consolation to know that God animated the Father with a courage altogether heroic; that, instead of complaining at the height of these barbarous torments, he raised his eyes to Heaven, whence he expected succor, himself offering, without any resistance, the parts of his body on which the executioners wished to vent the rage of their hearts; and they could never draw from his lips a single cry, as if he had been insensible to all those sufferings.