

Finally it was decided not to put him to death. His life was spared, as well as those of the two other Frenchmen, and of most of all the good Huron Christians. Eustache Ahatsistari alone was burned and put to death, and with him one of his nephews, who, ever since his Baptism, had hardly ever had other words in his mouth, even while singing, than that he would be happy in Heaven. He was one of the most accomplished young men among the Hurons; and, as he had always promised his uncle to accompany him amid the [20] greatest dangers of war, he could not do better than follow him to Heaven,—a blessing which could not long be deferred, for he had found, so near his death, so happy a Baptism.

At the same time when the Father arrived at the enemies' villages, he found means to baptize four other Huron captives who had been taken on the same day as himself, but sixty leagues higher up the river,—one of whom was burned, shortly after having received the waters of holy Baptism.

After that, the Father bravely cultivated this vine, which he had watered with his blood at its very birth, and which in such a time of tempests and of storms seems not to be able to grow in the spirit of faith, except amid the sufferings of its captivity. It was a profound affliction for these good Christians to see their good Father in such misery and inconvenience throughout a very severe Winter,—when his sole covering consisted of a piece of blanket, which barely covered one half of his body; and when the ardor of his charity impelled him, even in the worst of the [21] coldest weather, to drag himself from village to village to visit the children whom he had begotten in our Lord. “But it must be confessed,” adds Joseph