

their own country,—promising to speak there boldly in favor of the Faith, and to render their relatives and countrymen sharers of the same blessing that they had received while with us. In fact, there was every prospect that they would greatly advance the Faith in their country; for they were nearly all grown men, with good minds, well taught, and very zealous for the conversion of their people, among whom [152] some of them had great authority,—one especially, who had already been chosen as a war Captain. Besides this, they would have spoken favorably of the French, and of our Fathers, who had loaded them with fine gifts and shown them every kindness. But all these hopes were vain, and, if we had not others, solidly founded on God's providence, we would have reason to fear that the accident which has happened to our Seminarists might spoil all our affairs in the Huron country instead of advancing them; for these peoples may imagine—on account of so many unfortunate events, of which we seem to be the cause—that we bring all these misfortunes upon them, and that our company is fated to cause their ruin and desolation. If they have not such notions, it is due to a special Providence of God, who guides our affairs by confounding our own contrivances and skill, and by opening to us paths that we know not of. At all events, our Neophytes embarked in three canoes, on the 27th of April, [153] with Father Joseph Bressany,—an Italian by Birth, and a native of the City of Rome, whom our Reverend Father General had sent here to us,¹ two years ago,—and a young French lad, who was sent to serve our Fathers. It was believed that there would not, as yet, be much danger upon the river; and our