

their custom. Not long ago, when the Savages returned from war and brought prisoners with them, the girls and women, on seeing the canoes, would throw themselves into the water, stark naked, to catch what they could of the enemy's spoils. Such unseemly conduct is banished from the residence of saint Joseph. There was only one young man, and even he was not quite naked, who threw himself into the river and dived under the Captain's canoe. The latter rewarded him by giving him one of the arquebuses that he had taken from the Iroquois. None of the others stirred. The prisoners were received as peaceably as in their own houses. The young girls came and asked the Father to give them permission to dance and enjoy themselves, which was willingly granted. The standards—that is, the flying scalps—were fastened on the cabins; and all feasted and made merry in their fashion.

[75] I may say, in passing, that it is no little hold gained over the Savages, to hinder them from venting their fury on those who, when they hold them, treat them with fiendish cruelty. There was an old woman to whom the sight of these new guests was exceedingly unwelcome; however, she did not dare to touch them without permission. Addressing herself to the Father, she said: "My Father, allow me to caress the prisoners a little." This is an ironical expression they use when they wish to torture them. "They have killed, burned, and eaten my father, my husband, and my children. Permit me, my Father, to caress them." The Father replied to her that it was true that the Iroquois had done her great injury; but that she also had offended God, and that with what measure she meted to her enemies so