

that they were obliged to baptize them because they could not refuse the urgent requests [175] made to them by these good Catechumens,—who, they said, could no longer march bravely in the enemies' country when they thought that each day would be the last of their lives, and that, if they died before being immersed in the waters of Baptism, they would be damned for eternity; and that, consequently, each step that they took led them as much toward Hell as toward death.

So reasonable a request on their part had to be complied with. They knelt on the shore of the lake of the Hiroquois. Two Christians, who had taken charge of instructing them, baptized them publicly, each baptizing him whom he had had for his disciple. I think that the Angels of Heaven took pleasure in watching this holy spectacle in a place where they had never seen God adored; and that doubtless the guardian Angels of these two newly-baptized men had hastened this action, in prevision of their happiness and of their death; for the enemy soon made his appearance. Our Christians at once said their public prayers, to prepare themselves for battle. The two good Neophytes [176] placed themselves at the head of their army, and long withstood the assaults of the enemy; finally, their loss caused the defeat of the Hurons, and left the victory entirely in the hands of the Hiroquois, who were seven to one. But, if our Church has lost by the death of those two Captains and of many Christians who remained on the field with them, for not one fled, it must suffice for us that God has derived his glory from it, and that Heaven has been enriched by our spoils: *Novit Dominus qui sunt ejus*. God knows his Elect, and