

last year, but that did not proceed correctly; one should rather give with solemnity the blessing of the Ashes, and say a low mass, than say a high mass and not give the solemn blessing of the Ashes. Why should we not give it as well as that of the palms and Candles? We might, after one or two rows to whom Ashes had been given during the singing, begin a low mass, and at the close return to the vestry; then come back and give ashes,—so that Monsieur the governor, who would have taken some before mass, should not be constrained to wait. We begin with him, of the laymen, in giving ashes; we go to find him at his bench, just as for receiving communion; then we begin the rows again, as at Communions.

*Ash Wednesday.*

On the 11th came the news of the robbery of two frenchmen's houses by the yroquois, near 3 rivers, and of the pursuit of the Algonquains by these yroquois: this robbery occurred on Ash Wednesday.

*Robbery by the  
yroquois.*

On this same 11th began the thawing of a winterless winter,—there having been no cold weather till then; so that during most of the time one might have said mass without a fire, and I think that the wine in the Chalice froze only once, at most.

*Mild and thawing  
winter.*

On the 22nd came the certain news of the capture of a hundred Algonquains, or thereabout, by the treacherous hyroquois,—who, having wintered here the past year, and knowing every turn and byway, came to surprise them while hunting.

*Algonquains taken.*