

[1] Relation of what occurred in New France on
the great River of St. Lawrence, in the
year one thousand six hundred
and forty-seven.

*To the Rev. Father Estienne Charlet, Provincial of the Society of
JESUS, in the Province of France.*

MY REVEREND FATHER,
The Relation for this year, which I send
to your Reverence, will serve as confirmation
that the state of the present life is the reign of
instability, of agitation, and of obscurity: and that all
times and places are filled with the judgments of
God, incomprehensible [2] to our minds; and that
the roads and the ways of his Divine Majesty for
arriving at a goal, are very different from those
which men would have chosen.

These last two years, the flowers of the peace with
the Hiroquois, our enemies, had caused us to hope
for some agreeable fruits thereof, and a fortunate
ingathering; but the treachery of those barbarians
coming unexpectedly thereupon, like hail upon a
field ready to reap, seems to have somewhat retarded
and set back our hopes.

The first outburst of this treachery has fallen upon
the one who deserved it the least,—that is, Father
Isaac Jogues, who, as I sent word last year to your
Reverence, left here toward the end of September,
1646, in order to return for the second time to
his mission of the Martyrs among the Hiroquois,