

great river; some fires were also seen. Some young men hasten thither with a canoe; they find those two women [40] of whom that poor shattered creature had told us. Now, although they were not in so pitiful a plight,—because, being two, they had assisted each other,—they were, nevertheless, greatly dejected. The weariness of so strange a solitude is very trying; to have no other bed, no other cover, no other company, no other provisions, than the bed, the cover, the company, and the living of beasts, is to lead a life more miserable than the life of the beasts. These two women found the means of making fire; but the other had not that contrivance, having no knife. In short, after they had been restored to good condition, they were each given a dress and a bark canoe, in order to go and find their husbands, who were at Saint Joseph, near Kebec.

The sixteenth of July, another prisoner appeared at Three Rivers; she had followed a different road from that of the two preceding ones. The poor miserable creature had nothing but the skin stretched over her bones; her look was frightful: her eyes appeared as if sunk in a corpse's head; one no longer saw cheeks upon her face; her lips, glued to her jaws, imaged rather one deceased than a living person. [41] Having been charitably received, she related their capture and their journey. "One woman," she said, "of our band, fearing the fury of the enemies, spoke to me of putting herself to death. I saw well that that proceeded from madness; I answered her that it was necessary to escape, and not to undo oneself. But as she was a very Megera, and hostile to the Faith, she heeded not this counsel. Laying hands on her child, she murdered