

CHAPTER VIII.

FATHER ISAAC JOGUES RETURNS FOR THE THIRD
TIME TO THE COUNTRY OF THE HIROQUOIS,
WHERE HE IS PUT TO DEATH.

HARDLY had the poor Father been refreshed among us two or three months, when he recommenced his expeditions; on the twenty-fourth of September in the same year, 1646, he embarks with a young Frenchman, in a canoe conducted by some Hurons, in order to return to the land of his crosses. He had strong premonitions of his death, which he communicated to some persons in confidence. We have recovered a letter which he wrote to one of our Fathers in France, a little before he left us for the last time; wherein he speaks as follows.

“Alas! my very dear Father, when shall I begin to serve and love him who has never begun to love us; and [125] when shall I begin to give myself utterly to him who has given himself to me without reserve? Although I am worthless in the extreme, and though I have made a bad use of the graces which our Lord has shown me in this country, I do not lose courage, since he takes care to render me better,—still furnishing me with new opportunities for dying to myself and uniting myself inseparably to him. The Hiroquois have come to make some present to our Governor, in order to redeem certain prisoners whom he had, and to treat for peace with him in the