

Gospel more highly than his own life,—losing it in the dangers into which, with full consciousness, he casts himself for Jesus Christ, and protesting before his face that he wishes to die in order to make him known. This death is the death of a martyr before the Angels. It was with this in view that the Father yielded up his soul to Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ. I say much more than this,—not only did he embrace the means for publishing the Gospel which have caused his death, but one may besides affirm that he was killed through hatred for the doctrine of Jesus Christ, as here follows.

The Algonquins and Hurons—and next the Hiroquois, at the solicitation of their captives—have had, and some have still, [132] a hatred and an extreme horror of our doctrine. They say that it causes them to die, and that it contains spells and charms which effect the destruction of their corn, and engender the contagious and general diseases wherewith the Hiroquois now begin to be afflicted. It is on this account that we have expected to be murdered, in all the places where we have been; and even now we are not without hope of one day possessing this happiness. Now, just as of old, in the primitive Church, the reproach was cast against the children of Jesus Christ, that they caused misfortunes everywhere, and as some of them were slain on that account, likewise are we persecuted because by our doctrine, which is no other than that of Jesus Christ, we depopulate—as they say—their countries; and it is for this doctrine that they have killed the Father, and consequently we may regard him as a martyr before God.

Moreover, it is true that, speaking humanly, these