

death was abominable before God and before men, seeing herself ill-treated by her husband, left him in order to go up with her Father-in-law to her own country. On the way, the Hiroquois, having fallen upon their squad, took away that poor wretched woman with another who was of her company; this news being brought to three Rivers, afflicted her whole kindred, but especially a Christian woman. "I do not mourn her captivity," she said, "I do not regret her absence; but I cannot console myself about the loss of her soul." The Father to whom she was relating her troubles told her that it was a just punishment, that she had neglected the opportunities of her salvation. "It is true," she answers, "but alas! her relatives, and especially her husband, drove her into that misfortune. However," she said, [239] "I have a firm belief that God will show her mercy. I am going to ask his pardon for her sins; and, that my prayer may be more acceptable to him, I desire to confess and receive communion. Hast thou not taught me that God was all-powerful? What harm would there be in asking him to deliver her from the hands of her enemies? As for me, I will offer every day the rosary of the Blessed Virgin to her Son; I will entreat him at holy Mass to hear my prayers. As for you others, who are much more powerful with God,—ask him for this deliverance, and surely you will secure it." Her prayers were not offered in vain; some time after, those two poor captives were seen to appear at three Rivers, and God knows with what joy that good Christian received them. A band of Hurons, going to war, encountered the enemies who held those two poor victims in their fetters and bonds: they pursue the latter so