

join the French. He was kindly received, and taken to the fort with his countryman, whose feet were fettered; he hid the irons at first, for fear of frightening him. When they were both in the guard-house, and had been given something to eat, he opened his robe and showed the other the marks of his captivity. When his comrade saw those iron garters, he smiled; but it was not, in my opinion, with the best of feeling. They were allowed to converse at will; they did not tell us what the first part of their discourse was, but here is [22] the conclusion: "Our band," said the newcomer, "consists of a hundred men, four of whom are elders, and among the most notable of our country. If you will give my comrade his liberty, or if you will take him in a good shallop to our people, he will bring back some of them with him." His suggestion was carried out. The prisoner was accompanied by two well-armed shallops, and, as a mark of our confidence, he was allowed to enter the camp of his people,—whence, after a long parley, he returned, accompanied by two of his countrymen who voluntarily came with him to the fort of the French. We were thus in possession of four voluntary prisoners. When they were questioned more at leisure, it was seen that there was deceit in their words, for they admitted that the band consisted of only twenty-nine men, among whom there was no elder nor any man empowered to negotiate; that the rumor of the coming of the elders for the purpose of negotiating peace was false; and that the Hiroquois should not be trusted more than they deserved. Nevertheless, it was considered [23] advisable that one of the four should return to his own country, to inform the chief men among the