

weight of my sins! Ah, how often in my captivity did I think of the house of God! I commended myself to the prayers of the Christians who are here, and of those who are in France." And then, changing his tone, he said in quite a gay and joyful accent: "Since we have relieved the mind, let us think of the body. If you will give me some dinner, you will oblige me. [28] I have eaten nothing for twenty-four hours." God knows how cheerfully we gave him some. Here is the news we have received from his lips:

1. That he had escaped from a band of Hiroquois consisting of a hundred men, who held both sides of the river for three leagues below our fort.
2. That about a fortnight before, at a distance of two days' journey from their own country, they had met the comrades of our voluntary prisoners; that band had told them that they were going to inform the country of the kind treatment that we gave four of their warriors who were in our hands; and that therefore these fresh troops had changed their warlike plans into a desire to prevent any harm being done to their comrades, and, for that purpose, had taxed themselves for the quantity of Porcelain beads that were needed to make up four collars which were to be presented to those who had the prisoners in their hands.
3. That that plan was altered through their meeting, within eight days, those who were taking away our two Frenchmen whom they held captive; that that band was [29] angry with us through the perfidy of a Huron renegade of whom I have spoken in this Chapter. That treacherous Savage asserted that he had been commissioned by our prisoners to go and