

tell their relatives to consider them as dead, so badly were they treated by the French. Armand could not refrain from giving him the lie. "I know the French well," he said; "they are people who keep their word, and who abhor cruelty."

4. He reported to us that our two prisoners still had their clothes on when he had met them; that only some of their nails had been torn out; that he had asked the taller of them if he would like to write to three Rivers, and that he himself had prepared some bark that serves as paper, and had made some ink in his own fashion; that the Frenchman had in fact written, and had given him the letter, but their Captain wished to hold it, for fear that the Huron might, on account of it, seize the opportunity to escape. He added that they who conducted our French talked of keeping them alive, if we kept the Hiroquois. God grant that they remember that promise, if it has ever issued from their lips; for they take [30] so much pleasure in tormenting captives that there are rewards for those who display the most cruelty toward them, and the greatest butchers are considered most able and are best rewarded among this people.

Finally this good young man told us that his band was to go down secretly, to Quebec to surprise our Christian Savages; and that they have no intention of sparing the French, if they can entrap any.

After all the above news had been related, the four Hiroquois prisoners asked Monsieur de la Poterie to permit one of them to go and see these new warriors, to disabuse them of the wrong impressions that the wretched Huron renegade had conveyed to them. They said that by this means the hostile acts that they might yet commit against the French would