

be averted; and that, if he who should be delegated did not return, the three others might be killed. This proposition was accepted, and a canoe was given to the eldest of the prisoners who went straight to his people, and, after having spoken to them, he returned at night. He called out before the door of his prison, and when he had [31] entered, he said that when the Hiroquois perceived him they posted themselves on both sides of the river to surprise him; and they would probably have done him an injury, had he not made himself known by his voice, by his name, and by his songs. "When they recognized me," he said, "they were seized with astonishment; but they were still more surprised when I assured them that my companions had suffered no more harm than I. Then they railed against the treacherous Huron who had given them wrong ideas of the goodness of the French. Seeing them so well disposed I told them that the best way to deliver us from your hands was to stop all hostile acts against the French, and to bring back their prisoners as soon as possible. Finally I gave them to understand that I was pledged to return and I took my leave after they had first promised me to follow faithfully the advice that I gave them. Moreover they begged the Captain of the French to send them provisions, and to order a cannon to be fired on my arrival at the fort to let them know that I have arrived safely, and have not come across any Algonquins on my return. [32] They were so afraid of that," said the negotiator, "that they gave me an arquebus with which to defend myself." Monsieur de la Poterie, it is true, had the cannon fired; but he did not deem it advisable to send them food. On the following day two canoes