

observed those [37] canoes, they suddenly heard a great discharge of many arquebuses, without being able to discern whether it was a real fight or a feint; for all this passed in the woods. Remembering the warning that had been given them, they thought that it was a stratagem and retraced their steps. Hardly had they reached their post when a rumor spread that two hundred Hurons had just been defeated, and that the fray that we heard arose from that combat. At this news the blood froze in their veins; all hung their heads, without saying a word; they considered themselves almost guilty of the death of so many men, through having mistaken a reality for a feint or a dream. While sorrow devoured the hearts of the French and the Savages, suddenly a Huron canoe appeared, followed by two Hiroquois canoes that seemed to be pursuing it. Each one called out to embark and help the poor Hurons. Two canoes were promptly manned and went to meet them, while many people spread themselves along the beach. When those in the Huron canoe saw the two canoes approaching it, they thought at first that they contained Hiroquois; they continued [38] to advance; finally they recognized and saluted one another and went in company toward our settlement. It was found that those two Hiroquois canoes were two canoes that had been taken from the enemy, and were manned by Hurons. In the Huron canoe we perceived Father François Bressany, who lifted his voice before a great crowd of people that ran up to get news, and called out aloud: "Let us go and thank God, who has just given us the victory. Our Hurons have defeated the Hiroquois who prowled around your doors. Many