

Some infidel Captains, exasperated at the progress the Faith was making, and believing that it alone caused the ruin of the countries that are becoming Christianized, circulated a calumny against us in the hope of stirring up the natives and inciting them to take revenge. For this purpose, the most eminent among them assembled in a village belonging to this Mission (it was the village of saint Mathieu, from which our Fathers were then absent); and in this seditious council it was boldly announced that a certain Huron, lately escaped from the hands of the Iroquois nearest to Kebec, had seen there some large Porcelain collars, sent by Onnontio (the name which the Hurons give to Monsieur our Governor). It was stated that this Onnontio,—wishing to turn aside the weapons of the Iroquois, fearing lest they should make a dash upon the French at Montreal, Three Rivers, and Kebec,—had sent these presents and these Porcelain collars into the enemy's country, in order to induce them to transport [69] an armed force into the Huron territory; and that he had promised them that the French who were there should betray the Hurons and the Algonquins, by pretending to go bravely in their defense,—but that, in fact, when the fighting took place they were to kill no one, having received from him secret orders to load their firearms with powder only, without bullet or shot.

In the train of this calumny they painted us blacker than our robes, raised a cry of "Traitors, and treachery!" and talked only of massacring us; while the firebrands of the sedition noisily declared that they must kill the first Frenchman they should meet.

Indeed, descrying from a distance our two Missionaries,—who were shaping their course, a very