

mud and marshes, and hidden by the rushes, whence they discharged their firearms, and where they could not be approached. Finding themselves too much pressed, they took to flight, and embarked in their canoes. Our people cannot always march together; many remain in the rear. The Iroquois, seeing them disunited, turned face, and fought against those who were the most advanced. Perceiving the forces reunited, they again took to flight in good order, and, after a while, returned again to the combat. In a word, they are Proteuses, who change their appearance every moment; and it should not be supposed that they lack either generalship or courage.

We lost, in this encounter, some of our best Soldiers; others were grievously wounded. The Iroquois, finding themselves too hotly pressed, effected a retreat, with an order which [103] indicated nothing of the savage; moreover, their commander, the most prominent among these enemies of the faith, was a Hollander,—or, rather, an execrable issue of sin, the monstrous offspring of a Dutch Heretic Father and a Pagan woman.²⁹

How long will God allow to be transformed into a land of horror a country which, without these Barbarians, would be a blessed land? For, had it not been for their cruelty, the name of God would have penetrated far among a great number of unbelieving peoples who still remain to be converted. The Cross of Jesus Christ would have brought the light of day into the darkness of the Paganism that now reigns among them, and Paradise would have opened its gate to a million of poor Souls, who now have only hell for their portion.