

God's protection of those three prisoners, whom the Iroquois were leading away, is indeed worthy of attention. They were three young Christians, fifteen or sixteen years old, and the enemy kept them bound and manacled in a peculiar manner.

When the assault began, the three Iroquois who had special charge of these three prisoners, ran directly to them to brain them; for such is the usual custom.

The first one, when about to let his hatchet fall upon his [81] captive's head, was killed that very instant by a musket-shot, which saved the Christian's life and brought death to the Infidel.

The second captive saw the hatchet stroke already descending on his head, when an arrow, guided by God's Providence for his deliverance, pierced through and through the one who was about to despatch him.

Another accident, of similar nature, delivered the third; and it cannot have been without Heaven's special favor that the bullets and arrows paid respect—as they seemed to—to these three young Christians, who saw on all sides the Iroquois falling stark dead at their feet, without a single shot hitting themselves.

We have every reason to believe that this adorable protection of God, both over these three Christian captives, [82] and over those who delivered them with such good fortune and courage, was a reward of their piety; for never during the whole Winter had they failed to say their prayers, morning and evening, and to keep the Holy days, which they distinguished by means of their little Calendars, wherein these were all marked. On such days they failed not to assemble for the purpose of saying their Rosaries, and singing their Hymns and spiritual Songs, with as much devotion as if some one of our Fathers who had instructed them were present.