

[92] CHAPTER IX.

CRUELITIES PRACTICED UPON SOME FRENCHMEN CAPTURED BY THE IROQUOIS IN THE YEAR 1662.

I GIVE below a letter that has fallen into our hands concerning the cruel treatment which some Frenchmen received from the Iroquois two years ago, and of which we had not before learned.

I make no change either in the wording or in the style of the letter, since its simplicity will, in the reader's mind, prove its chief claim to trustworthiness.

On the 25th of the month of August, in the year 1662, fourteen Frenchmen were unexpectedly attacked by the Iroquois on a small Island near [93] Montreal, and fled in disorder without offering much resistance.

Only Monsieur Brignac⁴ and two other Frenchmen, disregarding their comrades' flight, assumed an attitude of defense, and Monsieur Brignac killed the Captain of the Iroquois at the outset.

The latter were immediately seized with fear and, seeing their Captain fallen, were already taking flight, when one of them began to harangue the others, saying to them: "Where, then, is our Nation's courage and renown? What ignominy for thirty-five warriors to flee before four Frenchmen!"

Meanwhile the other Frenchmen, who were in a boat, let themselves drift with the current and were