

Frenchman, whose name was du Fresne,⁵ and those of the Nation [96] of Onneiout, who were much superior in numbers, leading away the two others.

They proceeded eight days by land, René always laden like a packhorse, and most of the time entirely naked. Monsieur Brignac went along very quietly, scarcely able to walk because of the wounds on his head, feet, and whole body—which did not prevent him from ceaselessly praying to God.

After journeying for a week, the two bands which had separated reunited, and once more encamped together, loudly rejoicing and indulging in good cheer after their hunt.

Two among them went ahead, and carried the news to the villages.

The Iroquois, perceiving [97] that René had a psalter, and was reading therein, determined to cut off one of his thumbs, and forbade him to keep further company with Sieur Brignac, because they prayed together.

Arriving at length at the village of the Nation of Onneiout, they stripped the two Frenchmen—Sieur Brignac and René—and painted their faces in native fashion. Then, after the enemy had arranged themselves for giving them the salute,—which consists in making the prisoners pass between two hedge-rows, so to speak, each person giving them a blow with a stick,—one of the elders cried out, “Enough, stop! Make way for them;” and, being conducted to the central space of this village, where a scaffold was prepared, they mounted it. Then an Iroquois took a stick, and struck René seven or [98] eight blows with it, and plucked out his nails. After this, the two captives were made to come down, and were led into