

We walked twenty leagues in the woods, with incredible difficulty, and in continual dread of being set upon by the Iroquois. On the way we came upon a great number of cabins abandoned through fear.

On the 3rd of March, we reached the spot where the Savages had fortified themselves; there were at least eighty determined men. They were delighted to see us. I consoled them to the best of my ability, and confessed them. Meanwhile, one of their chiefs had gone with three young men to reconnoiter the enemy; while awaiting their return we passed four nights in dread, and, during the first two, we slept in their fort and upon the snow.

On the 5th, those who had gone to reconnoiter came back and somewhat reassured us. They told us that the massacre that had caused the general panic had not taken place so close to us, but at lake Piécouagami; and that the Savages dwelling on its shores were going to fortify themselves, and gather in great numbers to attack the Iroquois the following spring.

This news, which quieted us, enabled me to return to my first cabin. I had been there a few days when five Savages, sent by the chief of the Mistassins, came to notify me on his behalf to go and instruct him. He had especially charged them to help me as much as they could, so as to smooth the difficulties and shorten the length of the journey that must be performed in order to reach him.

I set out with them on the 26th of March. We were obliged to walk in water half-way up to our thighs, and with great difficulty. We set up our cabin on the top of a hill that borders on the river called