

the tumult, the diversity of tongues, still more the ferocity of hearts, rendered unintelligible? At least the most bitter reproaches were not spared to a few Abnakis who chanced to come in my way; the sharp tone that animated my words brought them to feelings of humanity. Confused and ashamed, they withdrew from this murderous company throwing away the cruel instruments which they were preparing for use. But what were a few arms less out of the two thousand determined to strike without pity? Seeing the uselessness of the agitation I was experiencing, I decided to retire so as not to be a witness of the bloody tragedy which was about to take place. I had only taken a few steps when a feeling of compassion recalled me to the bank, where I cast my eyes on those unfortunate victims whom they were preparing to sacrifice. Their condition renewed my sympathy. The fright which had seized them left them hardly sufficient strength to stand upright; their dismayed and dejected countenances were a true picture of death. Life was over for them: in fact, they were about to expire under a storm of blows, if their preservation had not come from the very heart of barbarism, and if the sentence of death had not been revoked by those very persons who, it seems, ought to have been the first to pronounce it. The French Officer who was commanding the bark had perceived the commotion which was being made on the shore; touched with that commiseration so natural to an upright man at the sight of the unfortunate, he endeavored to infuse it into the hearts of the Outaouacks, masters of the prisoners; he worked on their feelings so skillfully that he succeeded in rendering them sensitive, and