

which he gave the Iroquois full liberty to escape, of which the latter readily availed himself.

After having taken measures to prevent the renewal of the affair I went away, more fatigued than you could believe by the efforts that I had just made; but I was very soon obliged to renew them. I was informed that a company of my warriors assembled on the shore, near the boats in which the supply of powder was, were amusing themselves there with firing their guns, in spite of the guard, and even in contempt of the orders, or rather the prayers, of the Officers; for the Savage is his own Master and his own King, and he takes with him everywhere his independence. This time I did not have to struggle against drunkenness; it was only a question of curbing the inconsiderate youthfulness of a few heedless creatures; therefore my resolution was quickly formed. Imagine a crowd of pupils who fear the gaze of their masters. Such were in my presence those very redoubtable warriors; they disappeared at my approach, to the great astonishment of the French. With difficulty I was able to overtake one of them, of whom I asked in an indignant tone if he were weary of life or if he had plotted our destruction. He answered in a very subdued tone: "No, my Father." "Wherefore then," I added, "wherefore were you exposing yourselves and also us to be blown into the air, by the explosion of the powder?" "Tax us with ignorance," he replied, "but not with malice; we were not aware that it was so near." Without wronging his probity, we might suspect the truthfulness of his excuse; but it was a great deal that he was willing to descend to a