

ing for them, and desired only to meet them in battle, found very few of them, and were fully persuaded that the Hurons were hidden in the wild rice; but they were greatly astonished at seeing only the trail made in entering the lake, and no trace of the Hurons' departure. They bethought them of this device: they stretched across the narrow strips of land between the lakes the nets used in capturing beavers; and to these they attached small bells, which they had obtained from the Outaouas and their allies in the visits which they had made to those tribes, as above related. They divided their forces into numerous detachments, in order to guard all the passages, and watched by day and night, supposing that the Hurons would take the first opportunity to escape from the danger which threatened them. This scheme indeed succeeded; for the Hurons slipped out under cover of the darkness, creeping on all fours, not suspecting this sort of ambuscade; they struck their heads against the nets, which they could not escape, and thus set the bells to ringing.<sup>1</sup> The Scioux, lying in ambush, made prisoners of them as soon as they stepped on land. Thus from all that band but one man escaped; he was called in his own language *Le Froid* ["he who is cold"]. This same man died not a long time ago.

The captives were conducted to the nearest village, where the people from all the others were assembled in order to share among them the prey. It must be observed that the Scioux, although they are not as warlike or as crafty as the other tribes, are not, like them, cannibals. They eat neither dogs nor human flesh; they are not even as cruel as the other savages, for they do not put to death the captives whom they take from their enemies, except when their own people are burned by the enemy. They were naturally indulgent, and are so now, for they send home the greater number of those whom they have captured. The usual torture which they inflict upon those whom they have doomed to death is, to fasten them to trees or stakes, and let the boys shoot arrows at them; neither the warriors, nor any men,

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<sup>1</sup>Cf. Radisson's device for the protection of himself and Groseilliers at Chequamegon—"a long cord tyed wth some small bells, wch weare senteryes [sentries];" see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi, p. 73.—Ed.