

on their return from the war, renew their applications to me to get back the guilty whom they had surrendered to me, I ordered M<sup>r</sup> de Longueuil, at parting, to send these three Indians, under a sufficient escort, down to Quebec. I was intending to give one of them up to a Saguanan chief named Achaoualina, a relative of his, who, notwithstanding, had delivered him up, and whom I regarded as a worthy man and a good Frenchman.

The old men having all taken their departure, and the young men being about to arrive, M<sup>r</sup> de Longueuil put the three prisoners safely and secretly on board one of the King's canoes, under the command of one of the best Sergeants of the garrison, along with seven picked soldiers, and enjoined on them all the precautions requisite to be taken in such a case; but in vain. The negligence of the Sergeant cost him his life; those three men, without arms, and with manacles on their feet, killed or drowned eight well armed men, and having cut their irons with an axe on the bows of the canoe, escaped ashore and thence into the woods.

The canoe was discovered a short time afterwards, with the Sergeant's and some of the soldiers' bodies, but in consequence of a series of misfortunes the news was conveyed first to Three Rivers only instead of to Montreal. At Three Rivers, in place of sending off to Montreal, a statement of the facts was drawn up [*on verbalisa*], and even at Montreal all the diligence and activity that the case required to intercept these three Indians was not employed. It has been ascertained, or supposed, that they wandered a long time in the woods before striking the Grand river, and that they reached it at the spot naturally to be expected; finally, 'tis said they went back with the old men of their village who had preceded them some time, but who, Indian fashion, had not used great expedition.

Thus was lost, in a great measure, the fruit of Sieur St. Pierre's good management, and of all the fatigue I endured to get the nations who had surrendered these rascals, to listen to reason. This mishap must not discourage those of my successors who will find themselves in similar circumstances, and does not prevent my entertaining the conviction that the