

PIONEER PRIESTS OF NORTH AMERICA

due their ferocity. However the Puritans had a dislike for the cross on a banner. Endicott had long before cut it out of the royal standard.

Attempts to palliate the deed only added new calumnies. It was said that Moulton had given orders to spare the priest, but that Lieutenant Jaques was so exasperated at seeing Râle firing from a wigwam that he broke in the door, and shot him through the head while Râle was loading a gun, and shouting that he would neither give nor take quarter. It was further alleged that, in the wigwam with Râle, was an English boy who had some time before been taken prisoner by the Abnakis. Râle shot him through the thigh, and stabbed him in the body. Captain Harmon testified to the truth of this ferocious act under oath. But apart from the unthinkableness of such a deed, the fact is that Harmon arrived at the village only after the battle was over. The witness's bad reputation would in any case discredit his testimony.

Another charge was based on a letter which was said to have been written by Râle on the very day he was slain. The French original, if there were ever one, is not produced, but only what purports to be a translation. It is for the most part unintelligible, and if the writer's knowledge of French was no better than his English the document might be tossed aside as valueless, but at the end of it we can divine its purpose. Râle is made to express his thanks to some one whose name is not given, for the great quantity of wine that was sent him. "I have now enough for a twelve month, and I will keep it in my cellar, with what I already have. I take a glass after Mass, but I prefer brandy."

As there could be no cellar in an Indian cabin, and as Râle never tasted wine, it is unnecessary to call attention to the malice of the insinuation. But he was not merely a drinker. He was a profligate as well. In Belknap's "New Hampshire" (Volume II, p. 57), and in the "Massachusetts