

Their runners carried to *Onnontagué* the news of the prize which they had taken, and the two friends of Françoise were immediately given to *Onneiout* and to *Tsonnontorian*, while Françoise herself was surrendered to her own sister, who was a person of great consideration in the village. But she, putting aside the tenderness which her nature and blood should have inspired her, abandoned her to the discretion of the old men and warriors, that is to say, she destined her to the fire.

No sooner had the prisoners arrived at *Onnontagué*, than they forced Françoise to ascend a scaffolding which was erected in the middle of the village. There, in the presence of her relatives and all her nation, she declared with a loud voice that she was a Christian of the Mission du Sault, and that she thought herself happy to die in her country and by the hands of her kinsmen, after the example of Jesus Christ, who had been placed on the cross by the members of His own nation, whom he had loaded with benefits.

One of the relatives of the neophyte who was present, had made a journey to the Sault five years before, for the purpose of inducing her to return with him. But all the artifices which he employed to persuade her to abandon the Mission were useless. She constantly answered him, that she prized her faith more than she did either country or life, and that she was not willing to risk so precious a treasure. The savage had for a long time nourished in his heart the indignation which he had conceived on account of this resistance, and now, being again still more irritated by listening to the speeches of Françoise, he sprang on the scaffolding, snatched from her a crucifix which hung from her neck, and with a knife which he held in his hand, made on her breast a double gash in the form of a cross. "Hold," said he, "see the cross which you esteem so much, and which prevented you leaving the Sault when I took the trouble to go and seek you." "I thank you, my brother," Françoise answered him, "It