

During the rest of that year bands of Iroquois savages remained prowling about the country, seizing and slaying all who fell in their way.

**The Iroquois
invasion**

The Petun village nearest to their haunts, and necessarily the most exposed, was Etharita, Father Garnier's own mission, containing five or six hundred families. Spies had been sent out to watch the movements of the enemy, and anticipating an attack, a body of Petun warriors went out on December 5th, 1649, to meet them, leaving the village quite unprotected. But the astute Iroquois, always on the alert, avoided their advance, took a roundabout way, and seizing two straggling Petuns, learned from them of the absence of the warriors from Etharita and the desperate straits of the women and children left behind. Losing no time the dreaded enemy appeared before the gates of Etharita at three o'clock in the afternoon of December 7th, 1649, and attacked the defenceless inhabitants. Some sought safety in flight; others were slain on the spot; others were taken prisoners; but the Iroquois fearing the return of the absent warriors, hastened to complete their sanguinary work, and then retreated precipitately, putting to death all who could not keep up with them in their flight.

Father Garnier was one of the victims of this hideous massacre. When the enemy appeared he was instructing the people in their cabins. At the first alarm he went straight to the chapel where he found some Christians.¹ "We are dead men now, brothers,"

¹ The account of Father Garnier's death is found in the *Relation* of 1650. Clev. edit., vol. xxxv, p. 111 et seq.