

be delivered from an importunate censor, who was continually condemning the vices of the nation. He therefore a second time quitted his country and his family, for the sake of preserving that faith which was more dear to him than everything else.

Scarcely, however, had he set out on his journey, when the report of his departure spread through the wigwams. It was particularly mentioned in one, in which some intoxicated young men were at that time actually engaged in a debauch. They were enraged against Etienne, and after pouring out their abuse against him, concluded that it would not do to suffer him thus to prefer the Christian settlement to his own country, that this was an affront which reflected on the whole nation, and that they were bound to constrain the Christian dog to return to the village, or cut off his head, for the purpose of intimidating those who might be tempted to follow his example.

Three of them, therefore, immediately armed themselves with hatchets, and ran after Etienne. They shortly came up with him, and holding a hatchet raised over his head, said roughly, "Retrace your steps and follow us. It will be your death to resist, for we have orders from the Sachems to cut off your head." Etienne answered them with his usual sweetness, that they were masters of his life, but that he preferred losing that to risking his faith and salvation in their village; that he was, therefore, going to the Mission du Sault, where he was resolved to live and die.

As he saw that after this particular declaration of his sentiments, these brutes would undoubtedly destroy him, he requested them to give him a few moments in which to pray to God. They had this condescension, intoxicated as they were, and Etienne threw himself on his knees, and tranquilly offered up his prayer, in which he thanked God for the grace which had been given him to be a Christian. He prayed, too, for his heathen relatives, in particular for his murderers, who, at that very moment, raised their hatchets and split open his head.