

time I will cause the death of many, and then I will go elsewhere until I have brought about the destruction of the whole Nation." Others again said that after *Echon* had communicated a mortal disease to some of the Hurons, he left to make an alliance with the Senecas, one of the Iroquois tribes, sworn enemies of the Hurons, who dwelt but a day's march eastward from the Neutral town, *Oupiaudava*, which is also the name of the river. He said that when he met them, he would make them presents of wampum belts and arrows, and induce them to come and effect the ruin of this country.

Others were continually dinging into our ears that we should be on our guard, lest we be massacred, as was one of our Frenchmen who had undertaken a similar voyage, excited their jealousy and aroused a fear of losing trade. Others again said that when they had buried an excellent christian named Joseph Chivuatenua, *Echon* turned towards the country of the Senecas, who had killed him, and exclaimed aloud: "Senecas, it is all over with ye, ye are dead men," and soon after the Fathers faced towards their country and introduced disease which, in effect, was raging among them (the Senecas) during the stay of the missionaries in the Neutral Nation.

I am sure that from the day of the departure of the Fathers for the Neutral country, until their return, not a week passed that the Neutrals did not report their death. Yet I am of the opinion that, very often, these rumors were circulated by our own pagan Hurons, who, suspecting that some of their own friends might have killed the Fathers, wished to make strangers responsible for the deed.

Be that as it may, it is certain that a Huron named Aouenhokoui, nephew of one of our principle chiefs, went in company with another through several towns of the Neutral Nation when our Fathers were there, saying they were sent by their Chiefs and Elders with presents of axes, to warn the warriors to be on their guard and watch the French if they did not wish the ruin of their country, and, above all, to have nothing to do with our gifts. And these messengers of evil suggested that, in case the Neutrals refused to strike the blow, the Hurons had resolved to destroy the two upon their return, adding that the

design would already have been executed, only that all the Fathers were living together in the same house.

This man Aouenhokoui, having arrived on the same day with the missionaries at one of the villages, bestowed a thousand endearing caresses on them, inviting them at the same time to accompany him still further into the country, but they having other matters to attend to, left him to proceed alone. Afterwards, having heard of certain of his speeches and propositions, they took counsel with some of the members of the tribe, and asked what could have been the motive of Aouenhokoui in so strongly urging them to accompany him. The answer portended no good. This man, although the most dangerous, was by no means the boldest, for another, named Oentara, filled the ears of the people with lies and calumnies. He said that we harbored disease at our house, that our writings were symbols of sorcery, that we brought death to almost everyone in the Huron country, and that we had resolved to destroy all that still remained. He advised them furthermore to close the doors of their lodges against us, if they would prevent desolation coming upon the Nation. He was even bold enough to make his charges against the Fathers in their very presence, and in the hearing of the Elders of the country. However, though Father Brebeuf effectually refuted all his lies, the poison which was injected into the hearts of these poor savages was not easily neutralized, and they still held in mortal dread one whose name was so ominous of evil. Other Hurons, who arrived about this time, confirmed what had been said against us, and awakened much suspicion in the minds of the Chiefs and leading men of the tribe.

Now, although those very men refused to hold a consultation with us in the beginning, stating that they had no authority to act till *Tsohahissen*, their head Chief, returned, they now, after two months and a half, declared that they had the authority to act and to decide pressing affairs in the absence of *Tsohahissen*, adding that they considered our business of such an important nature as to call for immediate action.

TO BE CONTINUED.

MARY, Immaculate Mother of Him who is without spot or stain. — ORIGEN.