

horrible scenes of bloodshed, on Lachine and all isolated farms about the Island of Montreal.

At Three Rivers the situation was, if possible, still worse. Founded in 1634, this trading-post did not make much headway. Colonization fared no better here than elsewhere in Canada. After many fights the Iroquois nearly succeeded, in 1653, in annihilating its small band of soldiers headed by Governor Du Plessis-Bochard, who lost his life in the fray.

The Jesuit *Relations* admirably reveal the hardships, perils and courage of the colonists. Young Couture, travelling with Father Jogues, fell into the hands of an Iroquois band. Thanks to his vigour and agility he managed to escape. He was not far away, however, when, suddenly stricken with remorse for having left his companion in bondage, he retraced his steps and charged the enemy. Taken prisoner again, he was tortured with Father Jogues, but was not put to death.

Still more striking is the conduct of François Hertel. He writes to his spiritual adviser from a Mohawk village to beg pardon for having been taken prisoner alive. His reasoning sounds strange to modern ears: 'The reason why I did not fight until I was killed is that I feared I was not in a perfect state of grace.' Then Hertel begs his friend to bless the hand holding the pen, a hand which had one of its fingers burned in a pipe, 'as an atonement to the God I have offended.'

Montreal, the outpost of civilization, was most exposed to the enemy. From Maisonneuve down to the humblest inhabitant, religious fervour transformed all these pioneers of New France into heroes. Scorning death, they charged almost daily against the bands of Indians prowling around their poor stockade. Maisonneuve and Lambert Closse performed marvellous deeds of bravery in every fight. All their companions were cast in the mould of Adam Daulac or Dollard des Ormeaux, who, with sixteen of his comrades and a few friendly Indians at Long Sault on the Ottawa, held off over five hundred Iroquois for five days. He met death with all his companions, but his resistance discouraged the Indians, who, measuring the valour of the Montreal garrison by Dollard's, gave up their intended attack on Ville-Marie.