

below Albany. While there, word came that the Mohawks had been victorious in a fight with the Hurons and that they had returned to the villages with a fresh lot of prisoners.

When the faithful Jesuit heard of this he begged to be allowed to return up the Mohawk in order that he might be on hand to administer the rite of baptism to the unfortunate captives in case any of them should be put to death.

He was accordingly placed in a canoe with a guard and sent up the river as far as Rensselaerswyck, where a landing was made for the purpose of enabling the Indians to do some trading with the Dutch in and about Fort Orange. The Dutch had heard of the captivity of the French missionary, and being on good terms with the Mohawks they had already made overtures for the latter's ransom. These efforts had been in vain, the Indians seeming to place special significance upon the possession of so valuable a captive. While the Indians who were in charge of Jogues were busying themselves with the Dutch, their prisoner made the acquaintance of the clergyman of the church that had only the year before been organized, and for the worship of which a rude edifice had been erected hard by the fort. This is the church of which Rev. Dr. Clark is now pastor. It stands at the corner of North Pearl and Orange streets, and over the entrance, cut in stone is the date 1642. If Father Isaac Jogues, the Jesuit captive, could return to the scene of his captivity he would scarcely recognize the spot where Dominic Megapolensis pointed with pardonable pride to his new sanctuary.

While the returning fisherman with their captive still tarried among the generous-hearted Dutchmen, news came from the Mohawk valley which greatly alarmed the missionary. Some time before he went on the fishing excursion to the Hudson he had written to the commander of the French forces at Three Rivers, near Quebec, and had sent it by a Mohawk, who had shown special attachment to the writer.