

sumed by fire, others deluged with their own blood. The few who still showed signs of life were all covered with wounds, but looking for death and blessing God in their wretchedness. After investigation they found the body of Father Garnier completely covered with blood and ashes. They buried him in the spot where the church had stood, although there remained no longer any trace of the building, the fire having consumed all. "It was truly a rich treasure," we read in the *Relation* of

**Finding of his
mangled body**

1650, "to deposit in so desolate a spot the body of so noble a servant of God; but that great God will surely find a way to reunite us all in Heaven since it is for His sake alone that we are thus scattered both during life and after death."

Two days later the Petun warriors who had gone to intercept the Iroquois, returned to Etharita, only to find their village in ashes and the dead and mangled bodies of their wives and children. For half a day they maintained a profound silence, seated after the manner of savages on the ground, without lifting their eyes or uttering even a sigh, like marble statues without speech, without sight and without movement. The loss of the pastor and his flock was another heavy blow to the Huron mission, but "the missionaries adored the Divine hand and disposed themselves to accept all that He willed even to the end."

Thus ended the mission of St. John, at Etharita, and the heroic Father Charles Garnier. No trace has yet been discovered of this once flourishing Petun village. While the site of St. Mathias has undoubtedly been located, owing to its proximity to Ekaren-