

ing some of these Indians, these savages, often confused in their traditions, have perhaps seemed to him to include it among their most ancient.

Meanwhile, the war between the Iroquois and our allies increased in fury. The former, falling unexpectedly upon a distant nation, whose name I have been unable to ascertain,¹ committed a fearful massacre, and compelled all who escaped to seek a refuge elsewhere. They found one among the Hurons, who were no sooner aware of their misfortunes than they went to meet them with provisions, and received them with an affection that would have done honor to a Christian people. The missionaries, whom it would ill become to be outdone in charity by heathen, hastened on their side to the relief of these poor exiles, and they had the consolation of seeing several for whom misfortune proved the stroke of predestination.²

Their joy redoubled when, resuming their ministry, which had not yet borne all the fruit they had reason to expect, they perceived that God—touched, doubtless, by the generosity of the Hurons, as He was of old by the alms of the centurion Cornelius—had changed their hearts, and that the very men who had most persistently turned a deaf ear to their exhortations were most earnest in their entreaty to be admitted in the ranks of the proselytes. But this was not the only reward bestowed by the Almighty on these charitable Indians.

Some time after, three hundred Huron and Algonquin warriors having taken the field, a small body of adventurers in the van came upon a hundred Iroquois, who attacked them, but who, notwithstanding the advantage of numbers, failed to capture more than one

1640.

Generosity
of the Hu-
rons.

¹ The Relation de la Nouvelle France for 1639 (pp. 55, 59) gives the name as Weanohronon or Wen-rohronon. Their country was eighty leagues from Ossosane, on the frontier of the Neuters towards the Iro-

quois; hence in New York. They are perhaps the tribe attacked by Champlain, but driven further west. See ante, p. 28, 84.

² Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1639, p. 60.