

on the 15th of October Monsieur de Maisonneuve was declared governor of the island.¹ 1641-2.

On the 17th of May following,² the place chosen for the French settlement was blessed by the same superior,³ who celebrated the holy mysteries there, dedicated to the Mother of God a little chapel, hastily erected, and left the Blessed Sacrament in it. This ceremony had been preceded three months before—that is, towards the close of February—by another. All the associates repaired, one Thursday morning, to Notre-Dame de Paris; the priests said Mass; the others received at Our Lady's altar; and all besought the Queen of Angels to take the island of Montreal under her protection.⁴ Finally, on the 15th of August, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin was solemnized on the island, amid an extraordinary gathering of French and Indians.⁵ Nothing was overlooked, on this occasion, to draw down the blessing of heaven on the useful establishment, and to give the heathen an exalted idea of the Christian religion.

On the evening of the same day Monsieur de Maisonneuve wished to visit the mountain which has given name to the island; and two old Indians who accompanied him, having led him to the summit, told him that they belonged to the nation which had formerly inhabited that country. "We were," they added, "very numerous, and all the hills you see to the south and east were inhabited. The Hurons drove our ancestors out. One part took refuge with the Abenakis; others retired to the Iroquois cantons; some remained with our conquerors."⁶ The governor begged them to invite their brethren to assemble again in their old possessions, where they should lack for nothing, and be protected against any attempt to disturb

Tradition as to the ancient inhabitants of the island.

¹ Relation de la N. Fr., 1632, p. 37.

² Rev. Bartholomew Vimont.

³ Dollier de Casson (Hist. de Montreal, MS.) and Faillon (Hist. de la Col. Française, i., p. 439), Vie de Mlle. Manse (I., xl.) say May 18: Le Clercq, Premier Etab. de la Foi, p. 50.

⁴ Relation de la N. F., 1642, p. 37. Mr. Faillon (p. 436) says Feb. 2.

⁵ Ib., p. 38.

⁶ Compare Perrault, Mœurs, etc., pp. 9, 165.