1642. Indians would have escaped many evils; and so, too, would the whole colony, which soon felt the result of the misfortunes that overwhelmed the Hurons in the succeeding years.

Numerous conversions among the Hurons.

The moment was an auspicious one to erect a strong barrier against the Iroquois at that point, all the Huron towns being in movement to embrace Christianity, and, as a necessary consequence, adhere more firmly to us. Ahasistari, one of the most esteemed chiefs of the nation, was the instrument especially used by Heaven to effect a change which seemed to the missionaries miraculous; for the very men who had till then been most rebellious to grace, now showed most ardor for instruction and baptism. Astonishing things were told of this chief.[1] He was, indeed, a very brave man, to whom actions of more than ordinary valor had, perhaps, led men to attribute still more brilliant achievements. It is certain, however, that his merit alone, and the credit he enjoyed in all his nation, had long made the missionaries conceive a strong desire of winning him to Christ.

History of a famous chief.

There was no great probability of success, this Indian being extremely attached to his superstitions; but the difficulty of these great conversions is what often reassures apostolic men, who know that grace, which is all-powerful, is often pleased to triumph over those who resist its inspirations most stubbornly. They were, therefore, not disheartened, and continued to make frequent visits to the Huron chief, although he always received them quite ill. Yet he yielded at last, and even began to look upon them with favor. They gradually found him less removed from the Kingdom of God, and at last he began to relish their conversations on religion.[2]

They then devoted themselves more than ever to his instruction. He heard them attentively, proposed his

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[1] Relation Huronne, 1642, p. 58. He was a chief of the Attingueenongnahak.

[2] He never showed any aversion to the faith: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1642, p. 58.