

1642. could not, in the sequel, avoid its utter destruction; although, to shield itself from the fury of the Iroquois, who, unprovoked, had made several incursions into their territory, they offered to take their side and join them against the Hurons, from whom, apparently, they sprang.

This step did not save them. The Iroquois were then in a destructive mood; and as lions, when once they have tasted blood, cannot glut themselves with it, and no more spare those who feed and fondle them than those who hunt them, these barbarians swooped down without distinction on all whom they met in their course: and now no trace is left of the Neutral nation. These Indians were, it is said, larger, stronger, and better made than most of the rest. They had almost all the manners and customs of the Hurons, except that they were even more cruel to their prisoners of war; for they burnt women with the same cruelty as men, while the Hurons killed them on the spot. They also showed less modesty, were not so sedentary, and lived rather by hunting than by agriculture, cultivating the ground but little.<sup>1</sup>

Fruits of  
grace on  
this mis-  
sion.

God had his elect among these savages, but only few in number, and Fathers Chaumonot and de Brebeuf were his instruments to separate the few good grains scattered in the mass of tares.<sup>2</sup> As early as 1626, Father de Daillon, a Recollect, penetrated to their country; but as he did not know their language, he could announce Christ only by signs. This holy religious suffered greatly on this excursion; but he was consoled by the hope that his sweat would fertilize that sterile field.<sup>3</sup>

1643.

The two Jesuits whom I have just named had been invited by the leading men to visit the tribe; but they did not find the Neuters by far so favorably disposed

<sup>1</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1641, p. 73.

<sup>2</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1641, pp. 71-81; Chaumonot, Autobiographie, p. 53.

<sup>3</sup> See his interesting letter in Sagard, Histoire du Canada, p. 880-92 —abridged in le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, i., p. 346; Relation de la N. F., 1641, p. 74.