

Forced, therefore, to steps unbecoming his character, he endeavored, in his inability to do otherwise, to cover them with some fair pretext, and at the risk of being the dupe of insincere advances of an enemy at once wily and savage, he pretended to believe them sincere, with the view, either of delivering some captive, or sending some convoy safely through, and thus save trade from total ruin ; or, indeed, to secure some months' truce, if only to gain means to breathe.

Some time after the capture of Father Bressani, Mr. de Champflour, governor of Three Rivers, informed him that some Hurons had just reached his post with three Iroquois prisoners ; that they had given one¹ to the Algonquins, whom, with much difficulty, he had persuaded not to put their captive to death till they heard from him. On this information the general proceeded to Three Rivers, assembled the chief men of the two nations, and told them that if they would put their prisoners at his disposal, he hoped to use them to establish a durable peace between them and the Iroquois.²

He then displayed the goods, with which he expected to purchase their compliance with his wishes ; and he added, that to prevent being deceived by their common foe, he would at first send back only one of these captives, and that he would at the same time notify the cantons that, if they wished to save the lives of the other two, they must, without delay, send deputies, with full powers, to treat of terms to restore tranquillity in the land. As soon as he ceased, an Algonquin chief arose, and taking by the hand the prisoner given to his tribe, presented him to the governor, saying that he could refuse his Father nothing³ ; that if he accepted his presents, it was only to have wherewith to wipe away the tears of a family in which this captive

1645.

The governor general endeavours to make peace with the Iroquois.

¹ Tokhrahenehiaron : *Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1645*, p. 25 ; ² *Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1644*, pp. 46, 47.
Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. ³ *Ib.*, p. 47.
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