

views; we have even anticipated them, for we have done no harm to our prisoners; we have treated them as men who are to be our friends; but it does not become us to forestall the consent of our seniors, nor deprive them of so brilliant an opportunity of showing our Father how they respect his will.

1645.

“Another reason also restrains us, and I am sure that it will be as legitimate as the first in your eyes. We know that the river is covered with our enemies; if we meet a force superior to us, what will your presents avail, except to embarrass us, and animate them the more to the combat, to profit by our booty? But if they see among us some of their brethren, who show that we desire peace; that Ononthio wishes to be the father of all the nations, that he can no longer permit his children, whom he bears alike in his bosom, to continue to destroy each other, the arms will fall from their hands; our prisoners will save our lives, and they will labor much more efficaciously for peace than if too great anxiety is shown to set them free.”<sup>1</sup>

The Chevalier de Montmagny had no reply to make to language so studied and judicious; he even saw how advantageous it would be to let the first advances for peace be made by the Hurons, and he omitted nothing to induce them to it. He, accordingly, replied to the brave who had just spoken so wisely, that he strongly approved his reasons, and that, after all, peace was far more their affair than his. Still, learning that Father de Brebeuf wished to avail himself of this occasion to return to his church, whose pressing needs had forced him to descend to Quebec, and whither he was taking two new missionaries,<sup>2</sup> he deemed it wrong to leave them exposed to the miseries which had overtaken Fathers Jogues and Bressani, and he gave them an escort large enough to protect them from all insult.

The Hurons agree to treat for peace.

<sup>1</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1644, p. 48. talis Chabanel: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1644, p. 49; 1645, p.

<sup>2</sup> Fathers Leonard Garreau and Na-

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