

sani; their impatience to see them again; the welcome they were preparing to give them; their thanks for the deliverance of the last three Iroquois captives. Each of these articles was expressed by a belt; and even had the orator not spoken, his gestures would have made all he intended to say intelligible. The most surprising point was that he played his part for three hours, without seeming excited by it: he was also the first to give the signal for a sort of feast, which closed the session, and consisted of chants, dances, and banquets.¹ 1645.

Two days after, the Chevalier de Montmagny replied to the propositions of the Iroquois; for a reply is never made the same day. The assembly was as well attended as before, and the governor-general made as many presents as he had received belts. Couture spoke in his name, in Iroquois, but without gesticulation and without interrupting his speech.² On the contrary, he affected a gravity becoming the one for whom he acted as interpreter. When he closed, Pieskaret, an Algonquin chief, rose and made his presents. "Here," said he, "is a stone which I set on the grave of all who fell during the war, that no one may go to move their bones, or think of revenging them." This chief was one of the bravest men ever seen in Canada, and almost incredible stories are told of his prowess.

Reply of the
governor-
general.

Negabamat, chief of the Montagnez, then presented a moose-skin, to make, he said, moccasins for the Iroquois deputies, that they might not gall their feet on their homeward march. The other nations did not speak, apparently

¹ The proceedings are given in detail in the *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1645, pp. 23-7; *Lettres Historiques de la M. Marie de l'Incarnation*, pp. 120-8; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, pp. 418-20.

² The *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1645, p. 27, says the 14th. Couture is not mentioned.

³ As to Simon Pieskaret, see Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 465; *Relation*, 1641, p. 34; 1643, p. 59; 1645, p. 28; 1647, pp. 4, 68, 72; 1650, p. 43; Perrot, *Mœurs, Coustumes, etc.*, pp. 107-9; De la Potherie, *Histoire de l'Amerique Septentrionale*, i., p. 297; Colden, *Five Nations* (New York, 1737), p. 11.