

1645. because they had neither chiefs nor orators. The session closed with three salvos of artillery, to proclaim, as the governor explained to the Indians, the news of the peace in all directions. The Superior of the Jesuits also regaled the ambassadors, who addressed him in the most cordial words. Good cheer makes these people very eloquent, and there is no eulogium which you may not anticipate when you give them a hearty meal. These praises must not indeed be taken too literally; but they cost little, for it is not necessary to go to great expense to satisfy people who find any thing and every thing palatable.¹

The peace
ratified by
the cantons.

The next day the deputies took up their homeward march.² Two Frenchmen, two Hurons, and two Algonquins embarked with them, and three Iroquois remained as hostages in the colony.³ The treaty was ratified by the Mohawk canton, the only one hitherto openly at war with us. The two Frenchmen and their four Indian companions returned at the time set for them—that is to say, about the middle of September.⁴ They brought back word that all the Iroquois solicited missionaries, that the Hurons and Algonquins of the Island⁵ had also acceded to the treaty, and that all appeared tranquil.

At this juncture Father Bressani arrived at Quebec, and barely took a few days to recruit before setting out with Father Poncet to return to the Hurons. On departing, he expressed an earnest desire to be placed among the mis-

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1645, p. 28.

² Saturday, July 15: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1645, p. 28; Lettres Historiques, p. 133; Creuxius, Historia Canadensis, p. 422.

³ This was on September 23, after the ratification. See Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1645, p. 35.

⁴ They returned, September 17, with Couture, and set out again on the 22d with all the Mohawk prisoners: Lalemant, Journal; Rela-

tion de la Nouvelle France, 1645, p. 30; Creuxius, Historia Canadensis, p. 423. Just before, a flotilla of sixty canoes came down from the Huron country, and others from the Upper Algonquins. There was another general assembly, and Couture explained the eighteen Iroquois belts: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1645, p. 30; Lettres Historiques de la M. Marie de l'Incarnation, pp. 129, 134.

⁵ The Kichisipirini.