

1646. reason for believing them sincerely changed in our regard than his extreme zeal and hope of making them Christians. Yet, averse as he was to expose to the caprice of an inconstant people a man who had been too badly treated at their hands to be ever regarded favorably by them, he consented to his keeping his word.

Hostilities renewed between the Iroquois and Hurons.

The servant of God, at the summit of his desires, and already in imagination beholding the Iroquois crowding around him to be instructed in our mysteries, set out on the 24th of September, accompanied by some Indians and a Frenchman.¹ It was soon after ascertained that hostilities had been renewed between the upper Iroquois and the Hurons.² The upper Iroquois comprised the four cantons who had not concurred in the treaty of peace.³ The lower Iroquois are the Mohawks alone, although some include also the canton of Oneida.⁴ But to understand clearly what we have to say of this nation, which enters so largely into the history that I am writing, it is necessary to know the situation and nature of the country which it occupies, and the five cantons that compose it.

Extent and situation of the Iroquois country.

The Iroquois country⁵ extends between 41° and 44° N., about seventy or eighty leagues from east to west, from the upper part of the river which has successively borne their name, those of Richelieu and Sorel—that is to say, from Lake St. Sacrement to Niagara—and a little over forty leagues from north to south, or rather from northeast to southwest—from the source of the little river of the Mohawks to the Ohio. It is bounded, therefore, on the south by this last river and by Pennsylvania; on the west by Lake Ontario; Lake Erie on the north-

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1646, p. 17; 1647, p. 3; Lettres Historiques de la M. Marie de l'Incarnation, p. 161.

² Registre de Villemarie, 11th August, 1646; Relation, 1646, pp. 35, 51, 52. Father Jogues knew this before leaving the Mohawk, as

he was warned to be on his guard: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1647, p. 17.

³ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1646, p. 54.

⁴ Lafitau, Mœurs des Sauvages, i., p. 102.

⁵ Compare Smith's New York.