

when he beheld all preparing for the accomplishment of his desires. He pursued his way, and with much hardship reached a Mohawk village, where he was received, with little exception, as though he had been a prisoner of war. He and his companion were stripped almost naked; nor were blows from fist or club spared.¹ 1646.

The reason for this strange change was never well known. Two letters from New Netherland—one written by the governor himself to Mr. de Montmagny, the other by a private individual to Sieur Bourdon, Father Jogues' companion the preceding year—after giving some details of the holy missionary's death, ascribe it to the conviction in which the Mohawks were, that he had left the devil in their country.² The letter to the Sieur Bourdon added, that this perfidy was exclusively the work of the Bear tribe—the Wolf and Tortoise having done all in their power to save the lives of the two Frenchmen, even to telling the Bear: "Kill us, rather than thus massacre men who have done us no harm, and come among us on the faith of a treaty."³ Both letters warned the French governor that the Iroquois designed to take him by surprise, and that four hundred men were on the point of setting out to strike simultaneously at the French colony.

What
turned the
Mohawks
against
him.

There is then every likelihood that this nation had conceived the same distrust of the gospel laborers as had been at first entertained by the Hurons; and what sustains this conjecture is the fact, that diseases having made great ravages that year in the Mohawk canton, and worms having destroyed almost all their grain, the mob were easily convinced that these misfortunes resulted from a spell which Father Jogues had left them in his box. Some pagan Hurons who had settled in this canton,

¹ Letter of Jan Labadie, in MS. original letters is preserved in the *Memoires sur les Vertus*, and in *Relation*, 1647, p. 38. *Memoires sur les Vertus*, etc.: Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 459.

² *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1647, p. 37. A sworn copy of the ³ *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1647, p. 38.