

necessity of defending themselves against the English and their allies having forced them to unite with the Etechemins or Malecites, living near the Penobscot, and the Micmacs or Souriquois, the native inhabitants of Acadia and all the eastern coast of Canada, the close union formed between these three nations, their attachment to our interests and to the Christian religion, and striking correspondence between their dialects, have quite commonly led to include them all under the general name of Abénaqui nations; and I shall hereafter conform to this usage, where it is not necessary to distinguish one of these tribes from another.¹

For some time the Canibas had frequented Sylleri, and some were even baptized there.² On their return home they inspired their countrymen with the desire of imitating them, and the whole nation sent to the governor-general and the superior of the Jesuits to solicit a missionary. A people with a reputation for bravery, and able by its position between us and the English to be of great service to us in case of a rupture with New England, was an acquisition not to be neglected. The deputies were very well received at Quebec, and Father Gabriel Dreuillettes set out with them in the latter part of August, 1646.³

1646.

They ask
and obtain
a mission-
ary.

¹ As to these tribes, see the *Relations de la Nouvelle France*, for 1637, 1640, 1641, 1643, 1644, 1646, 1647, 1650 to 1652, 1660 to 1664; *Lettres Edifiantes*; *Letters of F. Rale and F. de la Chasse*. Williamson's *Maine*, i., p. 463. *Histoire des Abnakis* par l'Abbé J. A. Maurault, Sorel, 1866. Rale's dictionary is the great treasury for the Abnaki language. For the Micmac hieroglyphics and their origin, see *Historical Magazine*, v., p. 289; *Cronaca delle Missioni Francescani*, Rome, vol. iii, p. 40; Kauder's *Micmac Prayer-Book*, Vienna.

² A chief was baptized at Sillery in 1643; Creuxius, *Hist. Canadensis*, p. 372. Canibessinnoaks means "Those dwelling near the Lakes;" Maurault, *Hist. des Abnakis*.

³ The Abnaki mission, and that of the Mohawks under Father Jogues, were both decided upon on April 26, 1646. The Abnaki Mission was called that of the Assumption. Father Dreuillettes set out, August 29, with two Indian canoes, under Claude, a good Christian: *Journal of the Superior* (MS.); *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1647, p. 51; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 483.