

declared themselves his disciples, and burned all that they had used in their divinations.¹ The harvest seemed to him so ripe and abundant that, when the roads became passable, he felt it his duty to return to Quebec, to lay before his superior the condition in which he found affairs among the Abénaqui nations.² On his report steps were taken to found a mission, which promised the same fruits of benediction as were already gathered in the most flourishing, and where the missionaries hoped to labor with great success, as there was nothing to be dreaded from the Iroquois there.³

1646.

His first labors among the Abénaquis.

The affairs of New France were in this state, when the Chevalier de Montmagny received orders to resign his government to Mr. d'Ailleboust, who had been for some time in command at Three Rivers, and to return to France.⁴ The disobedience of the Commander de Poinci, governor-general in the West Indies—who had refused to receive a successor sent by the king, maintained himself in his post in spite of the court, and gave an example of rebellion which some minor governors began to follow—induced the king's council to adopt a resolution not to leave colonial governors in office for more than three years, for fear that they should grow to regard their domain as a country where they had too long been masters.

Recall of Mr. de Montmagny.

General laws have their objections, and it is unfortunate to be placed in circumstances where it is impossible to remedy by necessary exceptions their action, when prejudicial to the common good. A well-selected governor cannot be left too long at the head of a new colony. One

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1647, p. 52; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 484.

² He reached Sillery, June 16 (Journal of the Superior)—although the Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1647, p. 56, says 15th—after forming a friendship with John Winslow:

Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1647, p. 56.

³ Father Druillettes was not sent back, in consequence of letters from the Capuchins: Journal of the Superior, July 3-4, 1647.

⁴ The news came first in the fall of 1647. See note, p. 205.