

BOOK VII.

QUEBEC and all the French settlements were then quite ^{1648.} tranquil, and the Indians who had settled among us, or came to trade, profited by this calm. Commerce was ^{State of the colony.} confined chiefly to peltries, and it was especially at Three Rivers and Tadoussac that the Indians assembled to trade. Most of them came from the northern parts, and they were all instructed in the Christian truths. These they communicated to their neighbors, and they never failed to return with proselytes, who were then finally prepared for baptism. Sylleri, too, daily increased in population and fervor ; but the Huron church, although the most numerous of all, and fruitful in great examples of virtue, was a source of constant disquiet and alarm to the missionaries.

Nevertheless, this same year, 1648, brought some new gleams of hope that the Hurons and Iroquois would settle their differences. The Andastes or Andastoez,¹ a then powerful and warlike nation, sent offers of aid to the former, who at the time had gained important advantages over their enemies.² It was a favorable opportunity³ to

Unfortu-
nate ma-
neuvre of
the Hurons.

¹ Andastoe (says the Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1648, p. 56) is a country beyond the Neuter nation, one hundred and fifty leagues S. E. & S. from the Hurons, in a straight line, or two hundred leagues by the trails, of Huron language. They were near the Swedes. *Ante*, p. 72.

² Relation de la Nouvelle France, VOL. II.—14

1648, p. 58. Du Creux's map gives geographical data not in the Relations. The Huron envoy, Charles Ondaiondiont, who reached Andastoe early in June, there learned the death of Father Jogues.

³ Father Bressani, who descended to Quebec in July, brought news of a defeat of an Iroquois party by the