

1648.

Fruitless
negotia-
tions with
New Eng-
land.

the proposition favorable, by the advice of his council, deputed Father Dreuillettes to Boston, as plenipotentiary, to conclude and sign the treaty; but on condition that the English should join us in making war on the Iroquois.

I do not exactly know what was then the success of this first journey of the missionary;¹ but it is certain that the negotiation, after languishing for a time, was resumed with more earnestness in 1651. This is attested by the following documents, preserved in the *Depôt de la Marine*, and which I deem it proper to insert, as being the only papers I could discover relating to this affair. The first is a letter addressed by the Council of Quebec to the Commissioners of New England, as follows:

“GENTLEMEN—Some years since, the gentlemen of Boston having proposed to us to establish trade between New France and New England, the Council established by his majesty in this country unites its replies to the letters which our governor had written to your parts, the tenor whereof was, that we would willingly desire this trade, and therewith the union of hearts and minds between our colonies and yours; but that we desired, at the same time, to enter into an offensive and defensive league with you against the Iroquois, our enemies, who would prevent this

¹ Yet the archives of the College of Quebec contained Dreuillettes' narrative of his voyage. See Dreuillettes, *Narré du Voyage*, etc., 1855, and a translation in the *Collections of the N. Y. Hist. Society*, series II., vol. iii.; also *Epistola ad Dominum Dom. Joannem Winthrop*; and letter in Ferland's *Notes sur le Registre de Quebec*, p. 95. He set out Aug. 31, 1650, and after much suffering reached Norridgewalk. After a short stay, he proceeded to Cous-sinoc (Augusta), and presented his credentials to John Winslow, the Plymouth agent, who kindly accompanied him to Boston. He saw Governor Dudley of Massachusetts, who

referred him to Plymouth, as the Kennebec was under the jurisdiction of that colony. Governor Bradford welcomed him; but the French envoy found that any aid against the Iroquois could be decided only by the Commissioners of the United Colonies, and he endeavored to influence the delegates to that body. After doing all in his power to dispose the magistrates favorably, he returned to the Kennebec, visiting the New England Indian apostle, Eliot, on his way. He reached his mission safely, and in the spring returned to Quebec: *Jesuit Jour.*, June, 1651. The documents here given are in *Canad. Col. Doc.*, II., i., pp. 10-12.