

which overwhelmed the others. Nothing was apparently easier than to put them in a condition to have the necessities of life without becoming a burden to the colony, which might in time have drawn some advantage from them; and Father Jerome Lallemant, the superior-general of the missions, went to France¹ expressly to consult the directors of the Canada Company in regard to their case. He warmly represented the importance of not allowing so many Christians to perish, after they had thrown themselves into our bosom; the facility of providing for their support; and the advantage to be derived, both for the increase of trade and the defence of the colony.

1650-1.

The Hurons.

He spoke in vain. None listened. The consequence was that, as we shall soon see, the French colony fell into such contempt, that for several years the Iroquois acquired the same ascendancy over them that we had allowed them to assume over our allies. The latter, on their side, acted badly. A vertigo seemed to seize these Indians. No sooner were they beneath the guns of Quebec than they passed at a bound from the depths of discouragement to the height of presumption. They thought themselves now invincible; and although they had very few warriors among them, they proposed nothing less than retaliating on the Iroquois all the injury they had received.

Their want of judgment.

They induced the inhabitants of Sylleri to join them, and formed a war-party, before which they imagined the Five Cantons would never stand.² The Algonquins of Three Rivers, and some Hurons who happened to be at the same place, also swelled the force. This army marched against the Mohawks; and as they were all Christians, they gave their expedition the air of a crusade by announcing that they took up arms only to force the implacable enemy of Christianity to retire from the lands

¹ Lallemant sailed, Nov. 2, 1650, on the Chasseur, with Bressani and some brothers: Ragueneau, Journal, Nov. 2, 1650; Relation, 1650, p. 48.

² Exaggerated. See Relation de la N. F., 1650, p. 30. It was an Algonquin war-party, under John Outagouainou.