

But he found it in a state even far more deplorable ^{1650-1.} than Father Lallemant had represented, and the colony was daily wasting away. The Iroquois, emboldened by their recent victories, began to regard our forts and intrenchments as barriers no longer capable of stopping them. They spread in great bands through all the French settlements, and men were nowhere safe from their insults. A sad event had also just increased their insolence. One of their parties having approached Three Rivers, Duplessis Bochart, the governor, marched out against them in person. In vain representations were made against his useless exposure of his life, when all his valor was unavailing against an enemy whose chief strength is in surprise, and whom their natural agility and the neighborhood of the forests always afford a sure retreat; and that, in fine, there was nothing to be gained in fighting men who had nothing to lose. He turned a deaf ear to all; but he paid the penalty of his obstinacy. He was killed; and his death not only deprived the colony of a good officer and a worthy man, but it gave new lustre to the arms of the Iroquois.¹

The war which they unrelentingly continued against the feeble remnant of the Huron nation, and against every tribe that offered them shelter, daily increased the terror of their name, and their forces increased by the number of captives whom they brought in from all parts and used to replace those of their braves who fell. At last, Sylleri, become no longer safe with palisades, had to be surrounded with walls, and cannon mounted there. The most fearful deserts and most impenetrable cantons of the North no longer afforded secure retreats against the rage

Iroquois
ravages in
the North.

¹ Du Plessis Bochart Querbodo had filled important offices for over twenty years. His wife was Etienne-ette des Pres. As to him, see Ragueneau, *Vie de la Mère Catherine*, p. 54; Ferland, *Cours d'Histoire*, i.,

p. 406; *Mémoires et Documents publiés, etc.*, p. 87; Belmont, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 7; *Relation de la N. F.*, 1652, p. 35. The party attacking was Oneidas, with a few Mohawks. Besides du Plessis, one