

1653.

New nego-
tiations for
peace.

Some detached from the body, and approaching with great confidence, made signs that they wished to speak.¹ Their small number led to their being admitted without difficulty into the fort, and they declared that their canton was disposed to peace, if the French would treat with them. They accompanied this proposition with presents, and Mr. de Maisonneuve, on accepting them, called their attention to the fact that the French nation was far from that perfidy which had so often made them abuse the confidence placed in their words—that he might on this occasion resort to reprisals and treat them as spies, all their past conduct giving him the right—but that Christians act on far different principles.

They admitted all this, and declared that the French would soon have certain proofs of their sincerity. They accordingly set out to convey the governor's propositions to their sachems, and passing homeward through the canton of Oneida, they induced the chiefs of that canton to join them. That of Cayuga did the same, and even sent deputies in its name to Montreal, with a belt, to warn the governor that there were five hundred Mohawks in the field, aiming at Three Rivers.² Mr. de Lauson, to whom de Maisonneuve imparted this intelligence, diligently armed all the Hurons whom he could assemble. The Hurons, coming up with a considerable body of Mohawks, well posted, attacked them so resolutely that they killed a great number, captured the chief and several of the leading warriors, and put the rest to flight.³

Another party of these Indians met with better success. It advanced to the gates of Quebec, where all summer long it gave constant alarm, committed great ravages on

¹ June 26, 1653: *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1653, p. 4; Marie de l'Incarnation, *Lettre*, Sept. 6, 1653.

² *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1653, p. 4; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 663.

³ This exploit of the Hurons is apparently that described as having occurred at Montreal, August 15: *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1653, pp. 5, 9; Le Mercier, *Journal*, Aug. 21, 1653.