

1653

It is most frequently to defeat some operation that they do not approve; and it is most probable that, in the present case, the author of this rumor sought only to set all at variance. The fact was, that an Algonquin had been put in prison at Quebec for intoxication, and that not one of the Iroquois hostages had been molested. Father Poncet, fortunately delivered from these perils by the confidence which his conductor had in him, nearly perished in port. While shooting the Sault St. Louis, his canoe struck, and he was in great danger of drowning. At last, on the 5th of November, he reached Quebec, where he was received, as it were, in triumph, and where, during the entire term of his captivity, they had not failed a single day to offer public prayers for his deliverance.¹

Peace con-
cluded.

Peace was already concluded; and in spite of past experience of the levity and perfidy of the Iroquois, the people chose to flatter themselves that it would be durable. The Five Cantons had come to the step without any concert with each other, and the Mohawks had made advances at a time when they seemed most embittered against us and had nothing to fear on our side. This made all regard it as the work of Him who alone can give peace to the world; but He, apparently, wished but to suspend for a brief period the fury of the enemies of His name, who had not executed all the sentences of His justice, and give a colony, where He had a great number of true worshippers, time to breathe.²

cil was held at the fort with four Indian ambassadors, come from New England, who had brought a letter from Mr. John Heliot, minister of those quarters, which letter witnessed that the four Indians, taken prisoners of war the preceding autumn by the Algonquins Atontratoronons, were neither Sokokis nor Iroquois, but were allies of the English. . . . The resolution of the council was, that this nation was

friendly, and remotely allied to the Montagnais. These ambassadors brought thirty-six fine large belts for the presents which they made to thank us that their people had not been treated hostilely."

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1653, p. 17; Creuxius, Historia Canadensis, p. 682. Le Mercier (Journal) says he reached Quebec, Nov. 4.

² Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1653, pp. 17-20. The Mohawks