

Adventure
of Father le
Moyne, by
the perfidy
of the
Mohawks.

1654. Algonquins followed in others. As they approached Montreal, they were quite surprised to see themselves surrounded by several canoes, full of Mohawks, who poured upon them a volley from all their muskets. The Hurons and Algonquins were all killed, as well as one of the Onondagas—Father le Moyne being taken and bound as a prisoner of war. The surviving Onondaga was told that he might return home; but he protested that he could not abandon the missionary, who had been confided to him by the sachems of his canton, and he menaced the Mohawks with all the wrath of the Upper Iroquois.

At first they laughed at this threat; but when they saw that the Onondaga held firm, they changed their tone, unbound the prisoner, and put him in the hands of his faithful conductor, who took him to Montreal.¹ Mother Mary of the Incarnation, in her well-written and highly-esteemed letters, full of excellent notices of these times, relates the event somewhat differently. She adds, that the conduct of the Mohawks was disavowed by their canton, who threw the blame on a Hollander, born of a Mohawk mother, who had been brought up in his mother's cabin, lived with the Indians, and is known in our Relations only under the name of Batard Flamand—the Flemish Bastard.² Be that as it may, this accident, known quite late, made no alteration in the arrangement made by the treaty of peace concluded between the two nations. This was not even the only insult received from the Iroquois, and as to which it was deemed prudent by the French authorities to close their eyes.³

There were then six hundred Hurons in Isle Orleans,

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1654, p. 33. Creuxius (*Historia Canadensis*, p. 715) supposes this to be on his return from Onondaga; but there is nothing in the Relation to make us suppose it to be so. It was apparently going from Quebec to Montreal, subsequently. The Jour-

nal of le Mercier is lost for this period, and the Relation of 1655 was carried off by robbers: Ferland, *Cours d'Histoire*, I., p. 419.

² Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1654, p. 11.

³ Copie de deux Lettres, 1655, p. 2.