

where they began to support themselves by their own labor. As they were the flower of the Christians of that nation; as they had not abandoned the Lord in the miseries wherewith he had permitted them to be afflicted; and as they had borne the scandal of the Cross with patience and resignation, especially admirable in neophytes, it is easy to conceive their fervor at a time when every thing led them to gratitude towards Him who giveth death and quickeneth, always for the good of His elect. Besides, they lacked no assistance which could serve to nourish their piety. The most fervent had been formed into two sodalities, one for men and the other for women; and these associations produced among these fervent Indians the same fruits of holiness that were then admired in all parts of the Christian world where they were established.¹ And this we say, notwithstanding what is written by an author who had every reason to distrust his information, and whose profession should have rendered him more reserved in speaking of things as to which he could not be personally informed.²

1654.

Piety of the
Hurons in
Isle Or-
leans.

The desire of imitating the Queen of Virgins made a number of the young women embrace celibacy; and the edifying conduct of these spouses of Christ invested with respect, in the eyes of the Indians, a state which had, a few years before, been despised. The other sedentary missions gave no less edification to the French; and the tranquillity brought about by the peace gave hopes that all the nations of the North and East would soon embrace Christianity—nothing, it seems, any longer preventing their approaching us, or our missionaries visiting them.

Meanwhile, the Mohawks were laboring underhand, and sought an opportunity to trouble the repose which we and our allies enjoyed. Interest, a motive hitherto little known among these people, but which had been inspired

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1654, p. 20.

² Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, i., p. 539.