

1654. by European commerce and example, was the main ground of their discontent; and their jealousy against the other cantons had sowed the seeds of great contentions among them. As long as the war lasted, that nation had traded exclusively with the Dutch, which greatly displeased the Upper Cantons, because the trail which they were obliged to take to reach Orange was very long, and compelled them to pass through the lands of the Mohawks, who thus held them in a kind of dependence; and besides, the Mohawks, supported by their propinquity to the Dutch, were able to dictate terms to the whole country.¹

The Mohawks seek to break off the peace.

They resume hostilities, and kill a Jesuit lay-brother.

All these advantages ceased with the peace, which opened trade between the French and the Upper Cantons. It is not, therefore, astonishing that the latter showed so much eagerness to conclude the treaty, or that the Mohawks manifested repugnance, and repented as soon as they had concurred in it. Moreover, they never wished it to extend to our allies; and, in fact, they did not arrest, or discontinued for only a brief term, their war-parties against them. They soon wearied of observing the conditions agreed upon by them with us, and which consisted in their not appearing in arms in the colony, and not disturbing the missionaries in their functions. A Jesuit lay-brother, John Liegeois, was found near Sylleri, pierced by two musket-balls, his head severed from the body, and the scalp gone.²

It was then evident that there was no longer any room for temporizing with such an enemy, who was without self-control; and it was deemed necessary to reduce him

¹ Copie de deux Lettres, 1655, p. 3. See also Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1646, pp. 16, 17.

² Copie de deux Lettres, 1655, p. 2; M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Lettres Historiques, p. 236; Creuxius, Historia Canadensis, p. 733. Brother Liegeois was killed, May 29, 1655.

He had been in the colony from 1634, and rendered important services. He had just put up a fort or blockhouse at Sillery, and went into a wood to see whether there were any signs of the enemy, when he was surprised and killed: Sketch in Jesuit Journal, close of 1656.