

1655. informed the sachems that they desired to declare, in full council, and, if possible, in a general assembly of the canton, the intentions of those who had sent them. This proposition was well received, and the assembly was a very large one.^{1 & 2}

Father Chaumonot there discoursed of the Christian faith in a manner which filled all his hearers with astonishment. He insisted strongly on the marvellous change which Christianity works in the hearts of those who embrace it sincerely, and the effect of this part of his address derived additional weight from the fact of their having evident examples before their eyes. At the close of his discourse, an orator thanked him, in the name of all, for the zeal which he showed for leading them to an eternal felicity, and told him that, compared with the French, other Europeans did not know how to talk.³

Fruits of
their first
labors.

They at once began to build a chapel;⁴ and so many lent a hand, that it was finished in one day, and that very day a catechumen was baptized in it.⁵ Thenceforward the missionaries exercised all their functions with the same freedom as though they were in the midst of the French colony, and they found many hearts of which the Holy Ghost had already taken possession. A young maiden, not yet baptized, refused the two best matches in her town, for the sole reason that her suitors were idol-

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1656, p. 14. De Lauson had conceded to them a tract ten leagues square, at or near Onondaga: Archives, Bureau des Terres.

² The meeting at which the presents were given, and the one where Chaumonot spoke so ably, were the same: Relation, p. 15; Creuxius, p. 761. The Onondaga presents were given in the name of the Sagochien-dagueté, called by our writers Ato-tarho.

³ The comparison was with the

Dutch: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1656, p. 17.

⁴ The presents were returned on the 16th, and the chapel question taken up the 17th: Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1656, p. 20; Creuxius, Hist. Canad., pp. 770, 771.

⁵ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1656, p. 20. Three children were baptized, Nov. 18, the day of its erection: Creuxius, Historia Canadensis, p. 771. Chaumonot (in his Autobiographie, p. 67) gives interesting details.