

judge by appearances, he was received in the most respectful and cordial manner in the world. Harangues, banquets, chants, dances—nothing was spared. The next day, July 12, the *Te Deum* was chanted at the close of a solemn Mass; then the sachems offered the presents usually made in treaties of alliance; and on the 16th all the French received communion with a piety which was an excellent example, and produced a great impression on the minds of the Indians. The next day they began to prepare their quarters, and Father le Mercier proceeded to visit the town of Onondaga, where he was received with great ceremony.<sup>1</sup>

1656.

St. Mary's  
of Ganen-  
taha.

On the 24th a general council was held, and Father Chaumonot there spoke of the Christian religion with the same eloquence and the same success as he had done on his arrival in the canton.<sup>2</sup> The same day, deputies came from the canton of Cayuga to solicit a missionary, and Father Mesnard was granted to them.<sup>3</sup> All was now apparently in movement, in the canton of Onondaga, to embrace Christianity, and it became necessary to increase by more than one-half the chapel, no longer able to hold all who sought instruction in our mysteries. In the month of August there were excessive heats, which caused great maladies, but, by the good care of the Indians, all the sick soon recovered.<sup>4</sup>

This last mark of affection on the part of this people convinced the most incredulous that the Onondagas could be depended upon in future; yet the wisest thought precautions necessary, at least against fickleness, and it proved fortunate that their advice was followed. To hold this canton in check, and by its means the rest, required only the erection of a fort. But all the resources of Can-

<sup>1</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1657, p. 14. It is represented as five leagues from St. Mary's. Le Mercier was called, by the Onondagas, Achierendase.

<sup>2</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1657, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> *Ib.* (p. 19) does not state the day.

<sup>4</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1657, p. 19.