

1633. found the few proselytes previously made in the neighborhood of that city no longer in the same sentiments as at their departure; but it required no great effort to regain them. The English, during their brief rule in the country, had failed to gain the good-will of the Indians. The Hurons did not appear at Quebec while they were there.¹ The others, nearer the capital, many of whom, from private dissatisfaction, had openly declared against us on the approach of the English squadron, showed themselves very seldom. All were somewhat disconcerted when, on attempting to take with the new-comers the liberties which the French made no difficulty in permitting, they perceived that this manner did not please them.

The conduct of the English makes the Indians regret the French.

It was much worse soon after, when they saw themselves driven with cudgels from houses which they had previously entered as freely as they did their own cabins. They accordingly resolved to draw off; and nothing subsequently bound them more firmly to our interest than this difference in the manner and character of the two nations whom they had seen settle in the neighborhood. The missionaries, who were soon informed of the impression thus made on them, wisely profited by it to gain them to Christ and attach them to the French nation.²

Success of the first labors of the missionaries.

Fathers Enemond Masse and John de Brebeuf arrived, as I have already said, the next year, with Mr. de Champlain; and in less than fifteen years the number of evangelical laborers was fifteen priests, without counting three or four lay-brothers, some of whom were devoted to the instruction of children. These religious rightly deemed their first care due to the Household of the Faith; and as there was no longer any mixture of creed among the settlers, God showered down on their labors such abundant

¹ This may be so, but I find no authority for the statement. ² Relation de la Nouvelle France (1633), p. 36, etc.