

zeal, none appeared to these religious to deserve their first attention more than the Huron. Mr. de Champlain had long projected a settlement in the country of these Indians. He revived the idea when, on his return from France in 1633, he found no less than seven hundred awaiting him at Quebec.¹ He imparted his design to them. They all applauded it, but when he least expected it, changed their minds. It is perfectly useless to ask these savages the grounds of these changes. They often have none, except the right, to which they profess to adhere, of not fettering their liberty and of never giving an irrevocable decision.²

1634.

Settlement
among the
Hurons pro-
jected.

The governor, who knew them well, felt bound, nevertheless, to express his surprise and show his displeasure. He even spoke to them as a man who felt himself no longer, as in former years, in a position to be offended with impunity, and he had reason to believe that he had rendered them more docile. In this supposition, he wished to act with hauteur; and in concert with Father le Jeune, superior of the mission, he made all preparations for the voyage of Fathers de Brebeuf and de Nouë, who had been appointed to accompany these Indians. The latter not only accepted them, but a jealousy was even observed among the chiefs of the different villages as to which should possess the missionaries;³ but an unforeseen accident defeated all the governor's measures, and he saw that he had evinced too much eagerness for a thing which he should have made the savages desire.

Champlain
wishes to
oblige them
to take mis-
sionaries to
their coun-
try.

An Algonquin had killed a Frenchman, and Mr. de Champlain held this murderer in prison, firmly resolved to make an example of him.⁴ He deemed this severity the more necessary, as it was believed to be at last established that the Recollect Father Viel was not drowned as

They re-
fuse.

¹ Le Jeune, *Relation de la Nouv. France* (1632), p. 14. Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, p. 119.

³ Le Jeune, *Relation* (1633), p. 38.

² *Relation* (1633), pp. 34-43; ⁴ *Ib.*, p. 30.