

and deeming it unwise to relent in regard to the prisoner, and imprudent to risk a single Frenchman with people so ill-disposed, he advised the two missionaries to defer their voyage to another opportunity.<sup>1</sup> 1634.

The conduct of this Huron chief portrays well the character of this nation, the ablest of all in Canada, but against whom we must always be most on our guard. They carry dissimulation to an excess not easily believed if it had not been experienced. This trait had contributed to make it feared and respected by other Indians, as much as its industry, its readiness in expedients and resources, its eloquence and bravery. In one word, it is of all the continent the nation distinguished by most defects and most good qualities.

Champlain calls the Hurons *Ochasteguins*,<sup>2</sup> and confounds them with the Iroquois,<sup>3</sup> whom he doubtless supposed to form only one nation with them, on account of the conformity which he had remarked between the language of the two.<sup>4</sup> He may, too, have heard them called *Ochasteguins* by some other Indians. But their real name is *Yendat*.<sup>5</sup> The word Huron comes from the French, who seeing these Indians with the hair cut very short, and standing up in a strange fashion, giving them a fearful air, cried out, the first time they saw them, *Quelle hures!* (What boars' heads!) and so got to call them Hurons.<sup>6</sup> Origin of this nation.

If we believe their oldest traditions, this nation in its first origin was composed of two towns only,<sup>7</sup> which in

<sup>1</sup> Le Jenne, Relation, p. 42.

<sup>2</sup> From a chief of that name: Voy. (Lav. ed. 1613), p. 169; 1632, p. 134;

<sup>3</sup> He calls them good Iroquois.

<sup>4</sup> He seems to have distinguished clearly the *Ochasteguins* or Hurons (ed. 1632, p. 131), seventeen villages; *Tionontates* or *Petuns*, the *Neuters*, the *Antouhonorons*, fifteen villages; the *Iroquois* and the *Carantouanis*, apparently the *Susquehannas*.

<sup>5</sup> Misprint for *Wendat*. Sagard, in his dictionary (Verb. Nation), gives *Houandate* (Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1639, p. 50). *Wyandot* in our English writers, though the tribe now called *Wyandots* are really *Tionontates* or *Petuns* (Historical Magazine, v., p. 262).

<sup>6</sup> H. Lalemant, in Relation (1639), p. 51.

<sup>7</sup> Two tribes, the *Attignawantan*