

the truth were extorted from the very lips of those who closed their eyes to the light; or that the missionaries saw it triumph over the prejudices of birth and education among gross and superstitious tribes. Even for a long time true and solid conversions were very rare. It was only in patience that the Saviour promised to the preaching of the gospel an abundant harvest; and the missionaries of Canada understood from the outset the necessity of this virtue, by their repeated experience of the duplicity and other defects of the tribes confided to their vigilance and zeal.

1635.

At first some Hurons took a stand which perplexed the missionaries. "You tell us very fine stories," said one of them to Father Brebeuf, "and there is nothing in what you say that may not be true; but that is good for you who come across the seas. Do you not see that, as we inhabit a world so different from yours, there must be another heaven for us, and another road to reach it?"<sup>1</sup> Firm in this position, and to all that the missionaries said to convince them of its extravagance opposing only arguments too absurd to be seriously refuted, they gave no hope of conversion but that which is the fruit of confidence in God. It is in such circumstances that an apostolic laborer feels sensibly that it belongs only to Him, who has fashioned the heart of man, to touch and change it. This knowledge humbles him, and humiliation prepares him to become a fit instrument to execute the miracles of the grace of Jesus Christ.

Conduct of  
the Hurons  
towards  
them.

To the obstacles inherent in the disposition of these people, and those formed by their passions, must be added external ones; and the most difficult of these to overcome were those raised by the medicine men.<sup>2</sup> These charlatans, fearing to lose the estimation acquired by the exercise of their art if the missionaries gained credit in the country,

Efforts of  
the medi-  
cine men to  
prevent the  
progress of  
the faith.

<sup>1</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France (1635), p. 34. See 1637, p. 137; Hen-

nepin, *Les Mœurs des Sauvages*, p. 101.  
<sup>2</sup> Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 62.