

1635. apostolical laborers arose almost always from their excessive credulity.

Every thing that the Indians saw in the hands of the missionaries, but of which they did not know the use, was, according to them, a charm intended to draw down on them death or misfortune. The missionaries had to keep locked up the most trifling articles belonging to the chapel, and they were even obliged to put out of sight a clock and a weather-cock, the former of which the Indians said brought death, and the other always bad weather;¹—a deplorable excess, doubtless, but less criminal before God than the blindness which draws so many pseudo-savants into irreligion, if we consider the ignorance which urged on these barbarians, devoid of all the natural knowledge by means of which they might have risen, with the grace of Christ, to know the Author of nature.

Course of
the mis-
sionaries.

The firmness and magnanimity of which the three religious gave striking proofs amid the perils that surrounded them, the sound arguments they employed to reach the capacity of their hearers, their natural and palpable explanations of every thing which they saw excite the least suspicion, and the unwavering patience with which they endured the most shameful treatment, in time dissipated the unfavorable impressions against them, and they not only succeeded in calming the first fury of a people whom the satellites of Satan never ceased to irritate and envenom against them, but even acquired a great ascendancy over their minds. This, however, came only by degrees, and after many years of suffering.

What hap-
pened in a
council.

Father de Brebeuf was one day called before a general council. His reception there convinced him that his death was decided. He was first reproached with all the evils endured by the nation since his arrival in the country; and they attempted to prove that these evils could have no

¹ Bressani, *Breve Relatione*, p. 64; Creuxius, *Historia Canadensis*, pp. *Relation de la Nouvelle France* 172, etc.; *Marie de l'Incarnation*, (1638), p. 37; *Relation* (1640), p. 55; *Lettres Historiques*, p. 8.