

1635-6. was considered, too, that they would be so many hostages for the fidelity of their parents. The Huron Christians were, accordingly, invited to send their children to Quebec, to be instructed in the principles of religion and trained in good habits. They made no objection at first, and promised compliance; but when the time for fulfilment came, Father Daniel, who undertook to bring them, of all the boys on whom they had reckoned, was able to embark only three or four, whose parents were absent; and even these few he got no further than Three Rivers, where their parents meeting him, reclaimed them, although they had consented to their journey. This conduct did not surprise the missionaries, already aware of the extreme attachment of these savages to their children, and their invincible repugnance to parting with them.<sup>1</sup>

A number of missionaries among the Hurons.

Father Daniel was too near Quebec not to visit it before returning to his mission. A letter of Father le Jeune represents him as arriving in a canoe, paddle in hand, accompanied by three or four Indians, barefooted, completely exhausted, his breviary hanging to his neck, a shirt falling to pieces, and a tattered cassock on his attenuated body, but with a happy countenance, charmed with the life he led, and, by his air and words, inspiring all with the desire of sharing the crosses to which the Lord imparted so much unction.<sup>2</sup> Many went, indeed, and before the end of 1636 they numbered six priests scattered in the different Huron towns, to which several Frenchmen had followed them.<sup>3</sup>

The colony languishes.

It was a favorable moment to plant a good settlement in that country; the interest of both Indians and French required it. Mr. de Champlain had had nothing more at heart, and the Chevalier de Montmagny, in this as in all other respects, entered into his predecessor's views, but he

<sup>1</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1637, p. 55; Creuxius, Historia Canadensis, p. 208.

<sup>2</sup> Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1636, p. 71.

<sup>3</sup> They were six in May, 1637 (Letter of Father de Brebeuf, May 20, 1637); Carayon, Documents Inédits, xii., p. 161; but only three early in 1637 (ib., p. 165).