

lacked both men and means. Except the fur-trade, which, 1635-6. though tolerably flourishing, enriched only the traders and a few of the settlers, every thing languished for want of aid : so that the annals of New France, during its early years, treat almost exclusively of the apostolic labors of the missionaries among the Indians, of which they give very edifying accounts. These were at the time extremely relished in France, but would find few readers now.¹

It is not easy to see by what fatality a company as powerful as that which controlled Canada, and regarding that vast country as its domain, thus abandoned a colony of which such great hopes had been conceived, and where the wonderful concert of all the members composing it, the only one perhaps in the New World showing such perfection, assured the success of any enterprise undertaken there, had the hundred associates chosen to make the necessary advances. Several nations had been flattered with the hope that our alliance would enable them to reduce their enemies ; and it was the saddest point of all, that this made them succumb the sooner, because, relying on the aid expected from us, and which failed them in their need, they were not sufficiently on their guard.²

The Iroquois, on their side, never slept, and, to give the Hurons no time to profit by their union with the French, they resorted to a stratagem which succeeded. This was to divide them, and then annihilate them in detail. They began by treating of peace with the body of the nation ; then, under different pretexts, they attacked the towns more remote from the centre, persuading the rest that these were only private quarrels, in which they had no interest to interfere. The Hurons did not open their eyes till, so to say, they beheld at their doors a conquering enemy, whose very

The Iroquois deceive the Hurons by a feigned peace.

¹ Their popularity has revived. See Dr. O'Callaghan's paper before the New York Historical Society (Proceedings, 1847, pp. 140-58: Montreal, 1850), which led to a reprint of all the Relations, in three vols. 8o, Quebec, 1858.

² The tribes here referred to are the Hurons, Tionontates or Petuns, Algonquins, Nipissings.