

1636. name filled the whole country with alarm. Then the Iroquois raised the mask. The panic increased daily among the Hurons, and they lost all judgment, to such an extent that they could scarcely be recognized. Every step they made was a mistake, and nothing now humbles the feeble remnant of that nation so much as the remembrance of their prodigious blindness.

Renewal of
the war.

Immediately after Mr. de Champlain's last expedition against these Indians, mentioned in the previous book, they treated with the Huron nation; and there is no doubt that, had not that nation relied on the peace just concluded, neither the French nor the missionaries would have found them so haughty and indocile as they appeared both before and after the capture of Quebec. Yet the Iroquois soon renewed hostilities, but in the manner just explained, declaring them to be only private quarrels; and the body of the nation was reassured on the faith of a treaty which it had concluded with the Cantons.

At last, early in 1636,¹ the Iroquois threw off the mask, and appeared in arms in the midst of the Huron country.² Yet this irruption did not succeed. The few French who had followed the missionaries to those parts presented so bold a front, that the enemy judged it proper to retire. This retreat made the Hurons relapse into their first security, and the Iroquois profited by it to persevere in the plan of campaign which they had at first adopted. At the end of the following year a re-enforcement of evangelical laborers reached St. Joseph, and they were enough to assign one to each of the principal towns, and leave some to make excursions among the neighboring tribes.³

Various ex-
peditions of
the mis-
sionaries.

These were made especially in the direction of Lake Nipissing; but Fathers Garnier and Chastelain, who were

¹ They attacked the Hurons as early as 1634: *Relation*, 1634, p. 88.

² *Relation de la Nouvelle France* 1636, p. 94.

³ Chastelain and Garnier went up: *Relation*, 1637, p. 105; Letter of Father de Brebeuf, May 20, 1637, in Carayon, *Documents Inédits*, xii., p. 161.