

appointed, derived from their painful expedition only the consolation of having suffered much and sent several children to join the company of the spotless Lamb, by administering baptism to them as they were about to expire.¹ Among the nations whom they visited, their memoirs note the Byssiriniens.² I have made every effort to ascertain who these Indians were, and where they resided, and cannot even ascertain to which of the two mother tongues, the Huron or Algonquin, they belonged. This nation not being mentioned after this time, was apparently then destroyed by the Iroquois, like several others whose names have reached us.³

The missionaries, undiscouraged by the fruitlessness of these first excursions, continued the succeeding years, almost invariably with the same want of success. They were sent and went joyfully, sure at least of the merit of obedience, and flattering themselves that it would at last give fruit to their toil. They knew, moreover, that they were accomplishing the promise of the Saviour of the world, by preaching his gospel to every creature; that their ministry was confined to planting, watering, cultivating; that the increase depended on God alone, and does not affect the reward promised to the laborers whom the Father of the family sends into his vineyard.⁴

But what chiefly retarded the work of God in these remote parts, was the blockade of the roads by the Iroquois, who kept all these nations in alarm. In spite of all the precautions taken by the Chevalier de Montmagny to conceal the weakness of the colony, they were soon informed,

The Iroquois insult
Three Rivers.

¹ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1637, p. 73.

² Ib., p. 150.

³ It may be, that in printing the Relation, Byssiriniens was put for Nipissiriniens; for I find the Nipissings, the real Algonquins, sometimes thus called.—*Charlev.* There is no doubt on the point. The Rela-

tion for 1637 (p. 150) says Bissiriniens or Sorcerers, which identifies them as the Nipissiriniens—called Askicouanechronon, or Sorcerers, by the Hurons (Relation, 1639, p. 88; 1641, p. 81). The name is apparently Water Indians, nibish irini.

⁴ See Relations Huronnes, 1637, et seq.