

they professed to be, had made these Indians consider Christianity as an optional religion. 1668.

We know, moreover, that as the Iroquois felt sure of being supported by their neighbors, and of being able to draw from them all they needed, as often as we should attack them or they took a fancy to break off peace, they never gave themselves much concern about retaining our alliance; hence it came to pass, that fearing us but little, they never showed any great docility in matters of religion. The same missionaries added that strong liquors, which these Indians procured openly in New York, had also always been an insurmountable obstacle to their conversion. If we judge justly, that heretics are guilty of furnishing by this trade so great an obstacle to the progress of Christianity, what reproaches do not Catholics deserve, who by the same means have corrupted it among neophytes, and discredited it among idolaters!

New France then enjoyed profound peace, which it tasted for the first time since its settlement. Those who governed it, and to whom it was in a great measure indebted for this, neglected nothing to profit by it, and to give this colony a solid form, in order to render it worthy of the attention which the king continued to give it. The best part of the regiment of Carignan Salieres had remained; and at the close of the Iroquois war, almost all the soldiers had become settlers there, having received their discharge on this condition.¹ Two years subsequently, six companies, even of the same regiment which had accompanied Mr. de Tracy on his return to France, were sent back, both to re-enforce the garrisons of the most important posts and to augment the number of settlers.²

Progress of
the colony.

¹ Each soldier received 100 francs (or 50 livres), with provisions for a year: a sergeant 50 crowns (or 100 francs), with a year's provision: Relation, 1668, p. 3.

² The Relation, 1668, p. 2, says that more than 300 families had

come over, and that there had been 93 marriages in a year at Quebec alone. The census for 1666, gave 3,418 souls; that of 1667, 4,312; that of 1668, 5,870, not including 712 soldiers: Canada Doc., II., i., p. 144; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., pp. 57, 61.