

1668. and exclusively, to souls in whom he sees fit to establish his kingdom in a most mystic manner, which it is not, generally speaking, expedient to divulge: "For to hide the secret of a king is good; but to reveal and confess the works of God is an honorable thing." (Tobias, xii. 7.)

Employment of the missionaries among the Iroquois.

Towards the close of summer, the Senecas sent to Quebec deputies to solicit Mr. de Courcelles to obtain for them a missionary, and that governor induced the Superior-General to grant them Father Frémin, who was succeeded in the Mohawk canton by Father Pearron.<sup>1</sup> Although the Iroquois generally did not seem strongly disposed to embrace Christianity, there was, nevertheless, much good to be done in their towns. Had they merely succeeded in softening them, in accustoming them to live with the French, and inspiring them with an esteem for the Christian religion, it was much; but I have already observed that there were everywhere dying children to baptize; slaves of various nations, who were usually found more docile; sick persons, who could not resist the impression made on them by the assiduous care of an inexhaustible and disinterested charity. They discovered, in fine, from time to time, some of those predestined souls in whom God renders sensible what St. Paul says, that he is no acceptor of persons (Rom. ii. 11); the greatest miracles of his mercy being often wrought in favor of those who seem to call down rather all the lightnings of his justice.

The Mohawks had always been the most avowed enemies of the Christians; they were the most fierce and haughty of the Iroquois; they had manifested at all times an animosity against the French nation, which seemed a part of their nature; thus far they alone had imbrued their hands in the blood of the ministers of the Gospel; and we cannot doubt but that to something beyond a mere savage hate was to be ascribed much of that fury which

<sup>1</sup> See Relation de la N. F., 1668, p. 32. Father Fremin had left Mohawk for the Seneca canton Oct. 10, while the Seneca envoys did not reach Montreal till Nov. 10. His successor was F. John Pierron.