

1657. many, and they spared themselves in nothing that was expected from their zeal.<sup>1</sup>

Progress of  
religion  
among the  
Upper Iro-  
quois.

Father Chaumonot, on proceeding to visit the canton of Seneca,<sup>2</sup> found there a great number of Huron Christians,<sup>3</sup> whose good example had disposed many heathens to receive the light of the gospel.<sup>4</sup> It seemed that the Almighty had dispersed that nation among the other savages, like the Jews of old in the realms of the monarchs of Babylon and Persia, only to make His name known there and prepare worshippers of it. "What a difference," said the Indians, "between these Christians and the Dutch! They all acknowledge the same God, they say; but the conduct of the latter is far from being as well ordered as that of the former. When we go to see the French, we always return with a true desire to pray: at Orange they never speak to us of the Prayer, and we do not even know whether they do pray there." Would to God that the nations of Canada could have always held the same language in regard to us!

Father Mesnard had still greater success in the cantons of Cayuga and Seneca.<sup>5</sup> In the first year he conferred baptism on four hundred persons,<sup>6</sup> and he had every reason to promise himself a more abundant harvest in the coming time; but God's counsels are inscrutable. At the very time these Indians were deemed most to be relied upon, they escaped from grace, and the colony had scarcely had breathing-time after its late losses, before it found itself

<sup>1</sup> Relation de la N. F., 1656, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> Goyogouin and Tsonnonthouan.

<sup>2</sup> Tsonnonthouan. Father Chaumonot set out late in August, 1656, with Father René Ménard, and first visited Cayuga: Relation de la N. F., 1657, p. 43. He then proceeded to Gandagan, a Seneca town: *ib.*, p. 45; Chaumonot, *Autobiog.*, p. 70.

<sup>3</sup> Especially those of the Huron town, St. Michael's: Ante, vol. ii., p. 225; *Rel.*, 1660, p. 14.

<sup>4</sup> *Rel. de la N. F.*, 1657, pp. 41, 49.

<sup>6</sup> This is evidently based on a statement in Relation de la N. F., 1657, p. 54, and that in 1663, p. 23, that he had a church of 400 Christians. The Relations, 1657 and 1658, describe these labors, and the Relation de la N. F., 1658, p. 2, sums up all the baptisms during the period of this mission by all, at "500 children and a number of adults."