

1657. vented the execution of the design, I cannot discover : but if they escaped this danger, it was only to fall into another, where for a long time their destruction seemed inevitable. The first thing they learned on reaching Onondaga, was that a conspiracy against the French had been discovered. This strange revolution was attributed to the following cause.¹

The Iroquois conspire against the French.

A band of Oneidas, having gone towards Montreal to hunt, surprised three Frenchmen in a solitary spot, killed them, and carried the scalps to the village from which they started.² Mr. d'Ailleboût, who commanded at Quebec because Mr. de Lauson had returned to France,³ without waiting for his successor, demanded satisfaction for this outrage, and to force the nation to give it, ordered all the Iroquois in the colony to be arrested. He was obeyed, and the first impulse caused in the cantons by the tidings of this order, made them adopt the most violent resolutions. They were not, however, carried out; and they confined themselves to a course adopted coolly, and after mature deliberation.⁴

Father le Moyne, who was among the Mohawks, was to be requested to go to Quebec⁵ to negotiate the release of

¹ They left Montreal July 26, but the time of their arrival at Onondaga is not given : Rel., 1657, p. 54; 1658, p. 9. The news of this massacre did not reach Quebec till Oct. 6, and on the 28th Sept., F. Poncet had been sent to join the other missionaries at Onondaga, but hearing of it returned : Jesuit Journal. The bearers of Ragneneau's letter of information were pursued, and narrowly escaped : Rel., 1658, p. 10. The Onondagas sent two belts to excuse the act : Jesuit Journal, Oct. 20, 1657.

² Oct. 25 : Relation de la N. F., 1658, p. 10. The victims were Nicholas Godet, St. Père and his lad : Jesuit Journal, Nov. 1, 1657; Dollier de Casson, Histoire de Mon-

treal, 1657-8; Belmont, Histoire du Canada, p. 9. See Faillon, Histoire de la Colonie Française, ii., p. 364, for marvels said to have attended St. Père's death.

³ De Lauson Charny sailed for France on the vessel of Capt. Poulet, Sept. 18 : Jesuit Journal.

⁴ Relation de la N. F., 1658, p. 11. The massacre of the French at Onondaga was taken up in council : Ib., p. 14.

⁵ The Governor wrote to Le Moyne, and Mohawk deputies came to explain : Relation, 1658, pp. 12-15. Le Moyne felt his position so dangerous that he retired to Fort Orange, whence he wrote, March 25, 1658, announcing his speedy de-