

1670. deputies, then he would listen to their complaints, and do justice to all.¹

He was obeyed; the chiefs of all the nations came to Quebec; those who deemed themselves aggrieved, made their complaints, and by the prudence of Garakontié, who had come to represent his canton, and the firmness of the Governor-General, concord was established to the general satisfaction.² Garakontié then addressed the Ottawas on the unbecoming manner in which they treated the missionaries, whom the French had, he said, the goodness to intrust to them, and as though he had awaited the occasion of some such numerous gathering, to make profession of his faith, he declared himself publicly a worshipper of Jesus Christ.³

Baptism
of
Garakon-
tié.

He added that he had long been a Christian in heart, that he had all his life detested the superstition in which he had been brought up, and that he could no longer delay securing for himself the benefit which he had enabled so many others to obtain. Then addressing the bishop, who was present, he conjured him to receive him without delay into the number of the children of God. All concurred to induce the prelate to grant such a proselyte what he so earnestly sought. An apostle before he avowed himself a Christian, he had always appeared to have the establishment of Christianity in his nation as much at heart as the missionaries themselves, and the whole colony was under the deepest obligations to him.

Nothing, moreover, was more adapted to accredit religion among all the nations of this continent than to let

¹ The conduct of de Courcelle is somewhat magnified. He sent belts to Oneida and Seneca, which were received quite coldly: Relation, 1670, pp. 76, 77.

² The Relation (1670, p. 2) represents the coming of the Iroquois deputies to meet the Ottawas as the spontaneous work of Garakontié.

He arrived at Montreal just as the last band of Ottawas, in 80 or 90 canoes, came in. De Courcelle would not come to meet them, but summoned all to Quebec. The proceedings are given in the Relation, 1670, pp. 4-6.

³ Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1670, p. 5.