

1682-3. peared in the attitude of men bent on disputing their passage. Father Albanel advanced alone to address them, and told them that the French having cleared the country of the Iroquois war-parties, it was but just that they should be allowed to pass.

He then exhorted them to resume their old custom of coming to Lake St. John to trade, as they would never fail to find goods there, and would always meet a missionary to instruct them, as had been done in times past, a thing the English did not do. The Mistassin chief thanked the missionary for the peace which the French had secured to them, as well as for the zeal which he displayed for their instruction. He even besought him to remain with them, but Father Albanel told him that for the present indispensable business summoned him elsewhere, and he begged the chief to await his return to Lake St. John.¹

On the 18th the travellers entered the Lake of the Mistassins, to make the circuit of which requires, it is said, twenty days of good weather;² and on the 25th they reached the shores of Lake Nemiscau, which is much smaller.³ On the 1st of July they repaired to a spot called Miscoutenagechit, where the Indians who had solicited a missionary awaited them, and received them with great demonstrations of joy. Father Albanel perceived, nevertheless, that they were apprehensive that he would oppose their trading with the English, who had advanced there and built a trading-house; but he reassured them, and told them that he had in view only the salvation of their souls, and that the French thought only of securing the tranquillity and safety of the country against the Iroquois.⁴

Some days after he left that village with his two companions, visited all the country around Lake Nemiscau, and, embarking on the river of the same name,⁵ en-

Fourth
taking pos-
session of
Hudson's
Bay.

¹ Rel. de la N. F., 1672, pp. 47-8.

² Rel. de la N. F., 1672, p. 49.

³ Albanel says the lake is so called from its great number of large rocks: *Ib.*, p. 49.

⁴ *Ib.*, p. 50-1.

⁵ Nemiskaupiou: *Ib.*, p. 51.