

1661.

Refined  
policy of  
this Indian  
chief.

dian, he did not wish to lead Father le Moyne to his own cabin till he had conducted him to the lodges of all the chiefs whom he supposed he might need for the project which he had formed. He wished all to regard the peace for which he was laboring as their own work, convinced that if he appeared to make it his own affair, some would oppose it from jealousy.<sup>1</sup> This deference gained them all to such a point, that he obtained from them much more than he dared to expect. On the 12th of August, at the sound of a bell which had remained at the spot where the Jesuit chapel had stood, deputies assembled in his cabin from Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca. Father le Moyne was invited, and after pronouncing aloud a short prayer in Iroquois, he declared that he was sent by Ononthio, whose intentions he was about to explain.<sup>2</sup> He then set his presents in the midst of the assembly, and spoke thus :

Address of  
Father le  
Moyne in a  
Council of  
three can-  
tons.

“To you, Onondaga, I address my words. The Cayuga, your son,<sup>3</sup> came to tell me that he was deputed on your behalf to reunite the whole nation to me. Did you send him?” He was told that the Cayuga had spoken truly. He gave a present, and continued : “He added, that if I set free all the Iroquois detained in my prisons, you would restore to me all the French whom you hold as captives. Did you authorize him to say so?” “The Cayuga,” they answered, “had orders to speak so ; he will not be disavowed.” He gave a second present, and resumed his speech. “You have also declared to me that you besought to hide so deep in the earth the bones of the Iroquois fallen in the war, that none would hereafter think of avenging them, and that you desired the same to be done with the French. Do you make this proposition in earnest ?” Being assured that nothing could be more sincere, he gave a third present, and added : “And, Seneca, is it true, as you recently imparted to me, that you wish to be comprised in the treaty

<sup>1</sup> Relation de la N. F., 1661, p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> Ib.

<sup>3</sup> The canton of Onondaga is, as it

were, the head of all the others, and accordingly styles them sons.—*Charlevoix.*