ability. He accepted all the propositions made to him, 1661. and promised to return towards the close of spring with the rest of the French prisoners; and so completely did they deem it safe to rely on his word, that they restored to him all the Iroquois whom he asked: but they did not reflect sufficiently that, in a government such as that of the Indians, it is not always wise to rely on the words of a single chief, however accredited he may be, or individually upright.[1]

It is true that the hope of a speedy peace, much more durable than any hitherto negotiated with the Iroquois, was not based solely on the credit and good intentions of Garakonthié. The Upper Cantons were supposed to be in a condition to regard it as necessary, because the Andastes had attacked and were repressing them vigorously.

Peace seems to recede. 1662.

On the other hand, war was raging furiously between the Mohawks and the Mohegans, who had been joined by the Abénaqui nations;[2] but ere long positive intelligence came, showing that the Iroquois were not either so much embarrassed as was said, nor as much inclined to peace as they had flattered themselves.

They learned that the Upper Cantons, after repulsing the Andastes, had made excursions as far as Virginia, whence several struck far into the west. These, on their return, declared that they had advanced to the sea, and had seen people of the same religion as the French, which leads to the conjecture that they had penetrated to New Mexico and the Gulf of California, commonly called in French, *la Mer Vermeille*.[3] It would seem, also, that the Mohawks soon made peace with the Mohegans; inasmuch as they, with the Oneidas, continued their war-parties, and approached Montreal, where they killed an ecclesiastic named Vignol.[4]

Death of Rev. Mr. Vignol.

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[1] Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1661, p. 38.

[2] Ib., p. 39.

[3] Rel., 1662, p. 2. The Spaniards called it Mar Bermejo (Red Sea), from its shape.

[4] Rev. William Vignal came to Canada in July, 1641, and was first