

1700.

the cantons. He first¹ addressed the French ambassadors, and began by assuring them that all his nation was disposed to hearken to the voice of their Father, that is to say in Indian style, obey him. He added that each canton would send him two deputies to receive his orders, and that they would set out immediately.

Then turning towards the Englishman, "I do nothing in secret," said he. "I am glad to have you know the disposition in which I am. Tell my brother Corlar, who sent you here, that I am about to go down to Quebec in compliance with the commands of my Father Ononthio, who has there planted the tree of peace; then I shall go to Orange, (Albany,) to ascertain what my brother wishes of me." With these words he laid five belts at the feet of the ambassadors.¹

Father Bruyas took them up, which is equivalent to accepting them; and then said that he had no doubt of the uprightness of the speaker's intentions, having long known him; but that if those who were to proceed to the Governor-General, wished to see him without causing delay to the deputies of the western nations, who were soon, it was known, to arrive at Montreal, there was no time to be lost.²

One thing however that greatly disquieted the ambassadors was the fact, that the Chevalier Bellomont had recently induced the Iroquois to favor his sending ministers to them as missionaries, and Mr. Dellius had already begun his labors among the Mohawks, though in fact he discharged the office in a way not to be very troublesome, although it gave him a salary of twelve hundred livres. He remained almost constantly at Albany, where he had the children brought for baptism: an Iroquois woman who lived near him and attended him on short and rare excursions, acted as his interpreter in instructing the adults; but the proselytes were very few, nor did the preacher seem very eager to swell the number.

Mission of
an English
minister
to the
Mohawks.

¹ De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., iv., p. 154-9.

² Ib., p. 159; compare N. Y. Col. Doc., iv. p. 742.