

most of them were taken in their childhood, did not know their own parents, and were attached to those who had adopted them. He added that de Maricourt and Joncaire had not insisted strongly on this point, and from this they had inferred that Ononchio did not take it to heart.

1701.

Joncaire, who was present, and to whom de Callieres intimated that he would not like to have him excuse himself, rose and said that he avowed his fault; but that he begged the Senecas, his brethren, to help him to repair it; that they saw with what docility the other children of Ononchio had conformed to the slightest sign of his will, although they might have adduced the same reasons that the Iroquois did for disobeying. There was dissatisfaction with the Iroquois on this occasion, and even some sharp altercation, and they parted on no very good terms, though they relented and again approached.

At last, on the 1st of August, the first public session was held, and while a Huron chief¹ was speaking, the Rat fell sick. He was attended with all solicitude, inasmuch as on him the Governor-General built his main hope of successfully terminating his great work. He was almost exclusively indebted to him for this wonderful concert, and this assemblage, till then unexampled, of so many nations for a general peace. When he came to, and recovered his strength, he was placed in an armchair in the midst of the assembly, and all drew around to hear him.

First
public
conference.

He spoke at length, and being naturally eloquent, no one perhaps ever exceeding him in mental capacity, he was heard with boundless attention. He described with modesty, and yet with dignity, all the steps he had taken to secure a permanent peace among all the nations; he made them see the necessity of such a peace, and the advantages it would entail on the whole country in general and each tribe in particular, and with wonderful address showed distinctly the different interests of each. Then

Kondia-
ronk's
address.

¹ This chief was known as Quarante Sols, or "Forty Pence."