

1701.

HURON—Here lies the Rat, a Huron Chief. An hour after the obsequies the Sieur de Joncaire took the Iroquois of the Mountain to compliment the Hurons, to whom they presented a Sun and a wampum belt; they exhorted them to preserve the spirit and always follow the views of the distinguished man whom the nation had just lost, to remain always united with them, and never swerve from the obedience they owed to their common Father, Ononthio. This the Hurons promised, and there has never been any cause of complaint against them since that time. But what constituted the highest eulogium of this chief, was to see what hitherto no one had dared to hope, all the nations of New France assembled in one city, and to know that this concert was in good part his work.

The Iroquois complain that they are distrusted.

On the following days there were several private councils, in which the Iroquois complained of the distrust shown of their sincerity, and they added that if their prisoners were restored, there should be no reason to repent confiding in their word. The Chevalier de Callieres showed them the injustice of their complaints, and detailed all the grounds for being uneasy in regard to them. Still, as he wished to put them entirely in the wrong, he promised to lay their request before the interested nations, and to support it. He did so in fact, and as he had already discussed this question with the Rat, who advised satisfying them, and as many others left it to his prudence, he resolved to run the risk, and the event justified him.<sup>1</sup>

Sickness among the Indians, to what it was ascribed.

Disease had from the first prevailed among the Indians, and many of the most important men had already died.

The Hurons had suffered most severely, and imagined it was the effect of witchcraft thrown on them to destroy them all. Some even went to Father Anjelran to beg him to induce the priests of the Seminary,<sup>2</sup> to remove the pretended spell. On this occasion God showed in a striking manner that he is Lord of men's hearts. In spite of the rumor spread by evil-minded men, that the French had

<sup>1</sup> See N. Y. MSS. Eng., vol. xlv., p. 170.

<sup>2</sup> The Sulpitians. De la Potherie, iv., p. 239.