

1697.

Some
Oneidas
come to
settle in the
colony.

At last, on the 5th of February, thirty-three Oneidas arrived at Montreal; come, they said, to keep the promise made to their Father to range themselves among his children; that all the others had directed them to assure him that they would have followed, had not the Mohawk and Onondaga, between whom they lay, retained them each by an arm: that they had not however changed their mind, and that if Ononthio would send some one to them, they would at once come to meet him: that for their own part, they were disposed to settle wherever he chose; that they only wished to preserve the name of Oneidas; that it would give them pleasure to have Father Milet assigned as their missionary, who loved them greatly, in spite of all they had made him suffer, and they begged him to aid them in preparing an abode.

Their
reception.

What they said of the friendship entertained for them by Father Milet was not exaggerated. That missionary, with whom I lived several years, never spoke of the Oneidas except with esteem, and yet he had no obligation to them, except the occasion of great merits which they afforded him during his five years harsh bondage. Mr. de Callières received these new guests very well, and assured them that they should lack nothing. He then wrote to the Count de Frontenac to ascertain his intentions as to them, and received orders to send their chief back to Oneida to report to his countrymen the reception given them, and thus induce the rest to follow their example.¹

The other
cantons
take
umbrage.

This negotiation and the course of the first Oneida party, gave great umbrage to the other cantons, and the Onondagas were very active in opposing it. The Mohawks, more impatient than the rest to know how matters stood in regard to the Oneidas, sent two of their canton to Quebec, under the pretext of restoring two ladies made captives the year before at Sorel.² From these two prisoners it

Doc., ix., p. 666. De la Potherie, iii.
p. 287, writes Tiorhathiarron.

¹ De la Potherie, iii., p. 285. N.
Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 665.

² Mademoiselle Salvaye and her
daughter. Ib. The term was then
applied to married women under the
rank of noble.