

was then no missionary in the cantons, nor had been for a long time. In the second place the missionaries were never a burthen to the Indians, to whom they always gave much more than they received from them, so that it is inconceivable in what sense the Iroquois could complain of being oppressed by them. It is moreover well known that these people had a great contempt for the Protestant ministers, and that they had often reproached the settlers of New York with having no religion. Hence it is more than probable, that had they wished to become Christians, they would not have chosen to become such Christians as the English, and in fact all the Iroquois who have been converted to Christianity, have embraced the Roman faith.

1698.

But it was not merely over the Iroquois country and the persons of those Indians, that the Governor-General of New England extended his pretensions. He had been persuaded, and the Rev. Mr. Delliis so declared in formal terms to the Chevalier de Callieres on his passage through Montreal, that his nation having succeeded to all the rights of Holland, when it had ceded Surinam to them in exchange for New York, Michillimackinac and all south of that post reverted to it. The Governor of Montreal asked the minister on what he grounded his claim, and where he had learned that New Netherland, before it became New York, extended to all the countries he spoke of.

Other  
English  
pretensions

“For us,” he added, “it will be easy to adduce the best evidence that we had discovered and were in possession of the Ottawa and even of the Iroquois country, before any Hollander set foot there, and that the right of possession established by several official acts (titres) at various points of the cantons, was interrupted only by the war, which we had been obliged to wage against that nation, on account of their revolts and outrages.” Delliis saw that he had met a well-informed man, not easily to be led away from his premises: he did not press the matter, and the Chevalier Bellomont did not deem it expedient to introduce the