

almost under one and the same name. The greater knowledge that we have gained since that time, both of the language and of the country has made us more discriminating.

Besides, of many different Nations with whom we now have acquaintance, there is not found one that has not trade or war with others more distant; this assures us that really there is a great multitude of these Tribes, which remain for us to see; and that, if there are not yet abundant harvests to gather, there are great fields to plough and to sow.

Our Frenchmen who were first here surnamed this Nation "the Neutral Nation," and not without reason; for this country being the ordinary land route of some Iroquois Tribes and of the Hurons, who are sworn enemies, they keep themselves equally in peace with both.¹³ Nay, even, formerly the Hurons and the Iroquois, when they met in the same cabin or in the same village of this Nation, were both in security so long as they did not go out into the fields; [52] but for some time the rage of one against the other has been so great that, in whatever place they be, there is no security for the most feeble,—especially if he be of the Huron side, for which this Nation, for the most part, seems to have less inclination.

Our Hurons call the Neutral Nation "Attiwandaronk," which is to say "Peoples of a slightly different language;" for, as to the Nations who speak a language which they in no wise understand, they call them "Akwanake,"—of whatever Nation they may be,—which is to say, "strangers." Those of the Neutral Nation, reciprocally, for the same reason call our Hurons Attiwandaronk.

We have every reason to believe that not long ago