

of two thousand porcelain beads, which they desired to present to the Public.

The Captains, after having held a council, said in reply that, as the chief of the country was absent, they could not accept the Presents before he came back, since according to their customs this would oblige them to make others in return; but, if we were willing to wait until then, we could in the meantime [64] go freely into the country, in order to give therein such instruction as we pleased.

Nothing, it seems, could have happened more opportunely for giving time to instruct in private some of the most Aged men, and to begin to tame these fierce spirits. But, before commencing, the Fathers deemed it expedient to retrace their steps, in order to lead our domestics out of the country, then to take for the second time their way, and begin their duties. This they did, but the pretense of trade failing them, they had much to suffer afterward from a thousand calumnies which were stirred up on account of their journey.

Our Hurons related that, when Echon set his foot in their country for the first time, he had said: "I shall be here so many years, during which I shall cause many to die, and then I shall go elsewhere to do the same, until I have ruined the whole land."

Others related that Echon, after having caused the death, by disease, of a part [65] of the Hurons, had gone to make an alliance with the Sonontwehronons, who form one of the Iroquois Nations,—the one most feared by the Hurons, and the one nearest to them, as the former are distant but a day's journey from the last village of the Neutral Nation, on the side of the East, which is named Onguiaahra, the same name