

their steps, to provide for their journey. This return was an act of Heaven, which willed to give us proofs of the sincerity of the Annierronnon Iroquois; for, at the same time when the Frenchman entered their principal village, some Sokoquiois Ambassadors arrived, delegated by their nation, in order to break the peace between the Annierronnons and the Algonquins. Audience being given them, he who was spokesman harangued in these terms: "For a long time I have heard you say that the Algonquins were your irreconcilable enemies, and that you hated them even beyond the grave,—so that, if you could meet them in the other life, your war would be eternal. As we are [15] your allies, we enter into your passions and into your interests. Behold the heads of some whom we have massacred, and a cord which we present to you for the sake of binding with us as many of them as we possibly can." Thereupon they present the scalps of the Christians of St. Joseph,—killed last Autumn, as I have said at the beginning of this Chapter,—and a great necklace of porcelain, which was to serve as irons to put them in chains.

The Iroquois answered, with indignation: "We are astonished at your boldness, or rather at your temerity; you cast shame on our faces; you make us pass for knaves. Onontio, with whom we have treated peace, is not a child; if we looked at you with favor, he would have reason to say, 'The Annierronnons have not killed my allies, but it was done by their hatchets. I thought to deal with true men, and I have treated with deceivers and with knaves.'

"This is not all; the Algonquins, learning that the heads of their brothers are in our cabins, will cut off those of our [16] fellow countrymen who are in