

[18] CHAPTER II.

OF THE COMING OF SEVEN IROQUOIS AMBASSADORS TO
THE FRENCH, AND OF THEIR NEGOTIATIONS.

ON the 22nd of February in this current year, 1646, seven Annierronnon Iroquois and two Hurons, accompanied by the Frenchman whom I have mentioned above, appeared at Montreal; after having rejoiced that settlement, they come down to the three Rivers, whence advice is sent to Monsieur our Governor of their coming. Now, as this journey had been made over the snows, and as the cold was still causing the ice to accumulate upon our great river, the Annierronnons went away to the chase,—some on this side, some beyond,—while waiting for the month of May, when Monsieur the Governor went up to that settlement.

On the seventh of that month, he gave them audience; here follows what occurred in that assembly.

The most considerable person, raising his voice, chanted [19] a song of thanksgiving. "We were dead," said he, "and behold us alive; we were bringing our own heads to be sacrificed to the shades of the Algonquins or of the montagnais who were massacred last Autumn,—surely anticipating that we should be held guilty of that murder; but Onontio, staying the wrath of the Algonquins, has made our innocence manifest." Thereupon they draw forth a gift, and cast it at the feet of the relatives and allies of the departed,—saying that it was to cleanse the